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Burns District Office
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Summary of Proposed Land Use Alternatives

Andrews Resource Area Burns District

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1982

COMMENTS ON ANDREWS PLANNING UNIT PROPOSED LAND USE ALTERNATIVES AND ALTERNATIVES AND ISSUES FOR THE ANDREWS GRAZING MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

All comments should be postmarked by **March 24, 1982** in order to receive timely consideration in our development of a preferred alternative and scoping of the Andrews Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If you want to receive a copy of the draft Andrews Grazing Management EIS, you should check the following box and return this form together with any comments. ☐

1. **DECISION FACTORS OR CRITERIA:** Please review the factors or criteria to be used in the selection of a preferred alternative (on page 39) and suggest any additions improvements or priority order.

2. **PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE:** One of the proposed alternatives we have presented, or a modified version of one may satisfy the decision factors you consider important. You may prefer a new alternative constructed from elements or combinations of these alternatives. Please indicate your preference for resource allocations and the reasons for your choice. Give a geographic (i.e., Steens, Trout Creek Mountain) location, if applicable.

3. **OTHER ALTERNATIVES:** The Andrews Grazing Management EIS will have alternatives in addition to the Area Managers preferred alternative. What other alternatives should be addressed in the EIS? Should these alternatives be composed of the grazing related elements of the four proposed alternatives or should there be additional alternatives?



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Representing: _____

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IN REPLY REFER TO



United States Department of the Interior

Burns District Office
74 South Alvord
Burns, Oregon 97720

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1982

INTRODUCTION

This brochure has been prepared to summarize identified land use alternatives and other information concerning the land use planning process in the Andrews Resource Area of the Burns District. The land use plan, scheduled for completion in 1982, will guide the resource management programs on the public lands for the next ten years.

Public involvement is an essential step in the development of a land use plan that incorporates multiple use of public land resources to serve the public interest. To date, public involvement, both formal and informal, has played an active role in guiding the Burns District in the formulation of relevant issues and planning criteria.

This brochure provides an opportunity for citizens as well as organizations and agencies to learn about resource management and land use planning. It also provides for the submission of written comments and gives notification of scheduled meetings.

The BLM is seeking the public's viewpoint on the four land use alternatives presented in this brochure and on scoping of the Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Andrews area. Comments on the land use plan may be directed towards an entire alternative or any individual part thereof. The preferred alternative will be developed based on public and staff comments. Comments may be sent directly to the Burns District Office, or presented in person at one of the scheduled land use planning and grazing EIS scoping meetings, which will be held in Denio, Burns, and Portland.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES - SCOPING MEETINGS

1. Date: Monday, March 8, 1982 - Denio, Nevada
Place: Denio Community Hall
Time: 7:30 P.M.
2. Date: Tuesday, March 9, 1982 - Burns
Place: Circuit Courtroom, Harney County Courthouse
Time: 7:30 P.M.
3. Date: Thursday, March 11, 1982 - Portland
Place: Basement Conference Room
Bureau of Land Management
729 N. E. Oregon Street
Time: 7:30 P.M.

The public comment period will close on March 24, 1982. The preferred alternative or proposed action, and other alternatives which will be addressed in the Andrews Grazing EIS, will be announced to the public this spring. The draft EIS should be available for public review and comment by fall 1982. The final EIS should be released in 1983. The decision document on grazing management will be developed later in 1983.

The wilderness element of the preferred alternative will be incorporated in one of the alternatives in the statewide (BLM) wilderness EIS. This EIS will analyze 87 wilderness study areas in eight BLM districts in Oregon. The EIS will be scoped in the spring of 1983 and completed in 1984.

We have provided a review comment form for your use in this brochure. We are most interested in your comments on:

- 1) The factors or criteria to be used in the selection of a preferred alternative for the land use plan.
- 2) Your preference for elements which should be in the preferred alternative.
- 3) Your ideas on the formulation of other alternatives which should be addressed in the grazing management EIS.
- 4) Your ideas on issues which should be addressed in the grazing EIS.

Andrews Area Manager

District Manager

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PLANNING UNIT

The Burns District encompasses 3.5 million acres of public lands, and is divided into three resource areas: Drewsey-Riley, John Day, and Andrews. The Andrews Resource Area, containing 1.6 million acres, is located predominately in the south half of Harney County and includes a small part of Lake County on the west and a segment of Malheur County on the east. A small area in Nevada is included on the south, but except for the wilderness issue in the Pueblo Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA), it will not be addressed in this planning effort. The general location and land ownership status are depicted on Map 1 and Table 1, respectively.

The major resource management program activities are: range, wilderness, wildlife, recreation, minerals, cultural and botanical resources, wild horses, watershed, and lands.

- The rangelands in the Andrews Resource Area are grazed by cattle, wild horses, and numerous wildlife species. There are 49 grazing permits and 26 allotments with 102,908 Animal Unit Months (AUMs) harvested annually by cattle. Two of these allotments are administered by the Winnemucca District in Nevada.
- Seventeen wilderness study areas comprising 673,000 acres within or near the Andrews Resource Area are being evaluated for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.
- Some 324 wildlife species including fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals occupy the Andrews Resource Area. They are dependent on a wide diversity of habitats, both in quantity and quality.
- Fishing, hunting, sightseeing, camping, and hiking attract approximately 151,600 visitor days use each year. Total visitor use is 179,400 visitor days.
- There are 191 lease applications for oil and gas, and 30 leases and 21 lease applications for geothermal energy. One thousand ninety-one mining claims have been located within the resource area.
- Valuable cultural and botanical resources that need protection from human disturbance are found throughout the area. Three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and ten Research Natural Areas (RNAs) have been proposed to protect botanical, wildlife, and scenic values.
- There are two wild horse herd management areas, South Steens and Alvord/Sheepshead. Approximately 400 free roaming wild horses are found in the Andrews Resource Area.

- The Blitzen River and Trout Creek drainages are major contributors to local watersheds.
- Various land sales and exchanges, rights-of-way, leases, and permits are annually processed to benefit public interest.

TABLE 1

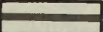
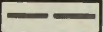
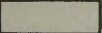
LAND OWNERSHIP - ANDREWS RESOURCE AREA

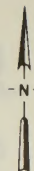
	Acres	% of Total
Federal (BLM Administered)	11,573,395	74.2
Malheur National Wildlife Refuge	27,093	1.3
State	83,392	3.9
Private	433,237	20.4
Other	4,563	0.2
	<hr/> 2,121,680	<hr/> 100.0

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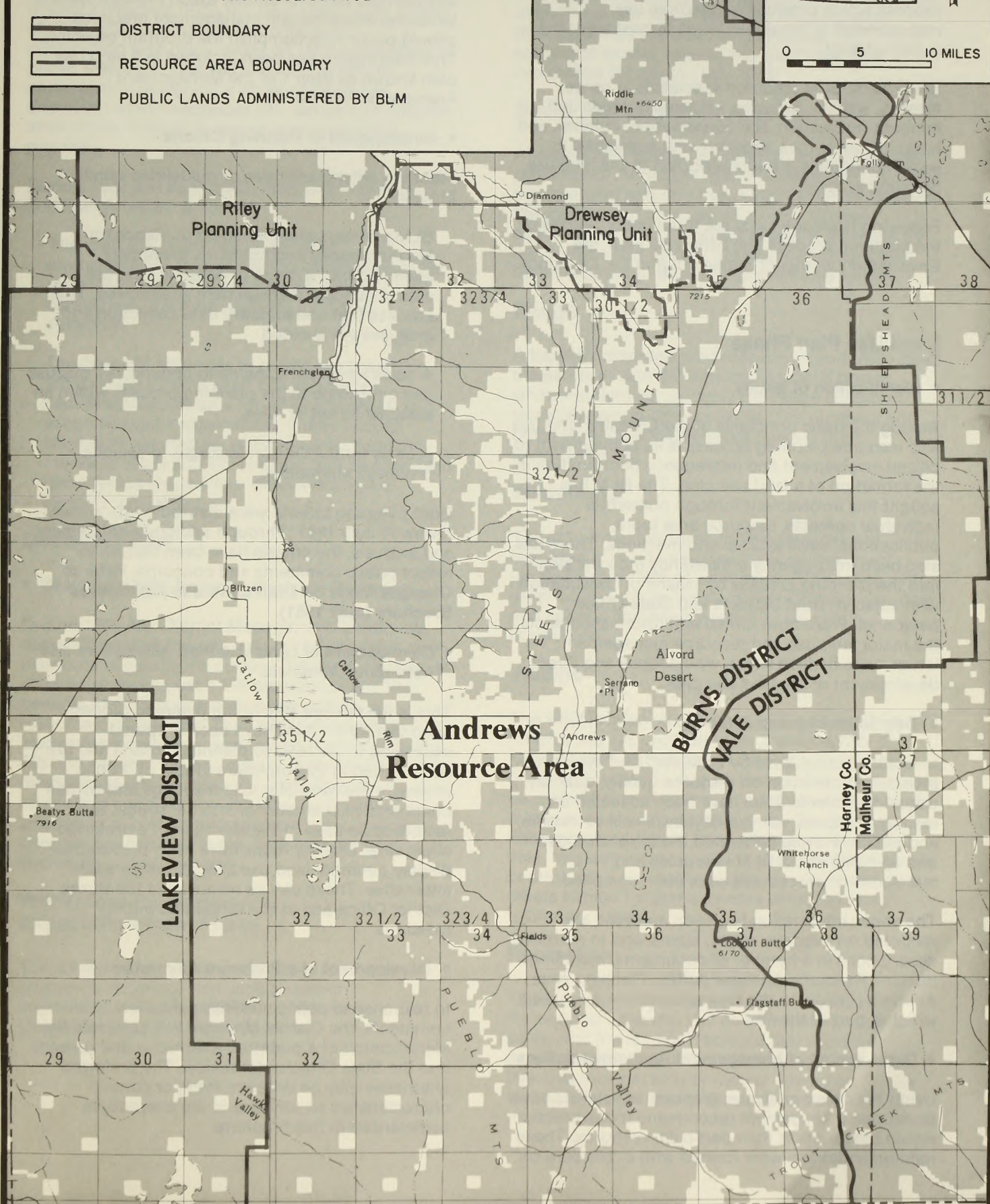
Burns District, Oregon

ANDREWS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
Andrews Resource Area

-  DISTRICT BOUNDARY
-  RESOURCE AREA BOUNDARY
-  PUBLIC LANDS ADMINISTERED BY BLM



0 5 10 MILES



PLANNING PROCESS

BLM's land use planning system is a dynamic process which provides for multiple use management of the public lands to best serve the public interest.

Since 1979, BLM resource specialists in range, forestry, wildlife, fisheries, wilderness, lands and minerals, recreation, soil conservation, cultural, and botanical resources, together with specialists in socio-economics, have contributed to the land use planning process.

Following is an outline of the three major phases of the planning process: the Land Use Plan, the Environmental Impact Statement and the Decisions.

Land Use Plan Phase

• Identification of Issues

Among the basic principles of the Bureau's land use and resource planning process is its commitment to citizen involvement and interagency coordination in the formation of a land use plan. The BLM has sought this involvement through numerous individual contacts, resource area tours, publications, news articles and meetings. There has also been intra-agency consistency incorporated into the planning process by means of consultation with adjacent BLM Districts and State Office personnel. From both formal and informal contacts, the major land use and resource management issues were derived which would focus and direct development of the land use plan.

• Data Collection and Analysis

Inventories conducted by BLM staff and others have provided information on resource quality, quantity, use and problems. Data have been collected on resource outputs, number of jobs, levels of income, and public revenue generated. Peoples' attitudes and opinions about BLM resources and management procedures have been compiled.

The above information has been analyzed and recorded on overlays, maps, tables, and in narrative descriptions in a number of documents, including the Unit Resource Analysis (URA), Planning Area Analysis (PAA) and the Resource Industry Analysis, which is part of the PAA.

• Development of Management Recommendations

Using the above analyses, resource specialists have developed management recommendations which would best support their particular resource. These recommendations were formed with a "blindfold-on"

approach. The resource specialists disregarded the constraints other programs would place on that resource, and recommend the best resource program technically feasible. Recommendations include land use allocations, which indicate specific locations where certain management practices should occur to accomplish the program objective. This information has been included in a land use plan known as Step 1 of the Management Framework Plan (MFP).

• Development of Planning Criteria

Planning criteria are rules or guidelines which provide:

BLM planners and managers guidance for tailoring issues and concerns previously identified into a range of possible land use allocations and management alternatives. This ensures that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided.

A basis for all participants to understand, discuss and contribute to the planning process within an established set of rules.

A basis for the District Manager to select a preferred alternative.

Draft planning criteria were distributed for public review in July 1981. Through additional refinement and analysis, the criteria have been revised to reflect public comments and concerns. Refer to **Changes Made on Draft Land Use Alternatives Brochure (July 1981)**.

• Development of Land Use Plan Alternatives and Associated Materials.

This is the current step in the planning process. Land use alternatives have been prepared according to the revised planning criteria and are summarized in this brochure (Table 2). Public review, in the form of public meetings and written comments plus additional internal review, are factors to be used in the selection of a preferred alternative. Overlay maps have been prepared to display potential land use allocations for each alternative. These can be reviewed at the Burns District Office and at the scheduled public meetings.

• Development of a Preferred Alternative

In response to public and internal review comments, the District Manager will complete the identification of a preferred alternative and present it to the State Director for review. The preferred alternative may be different from, or contain characteristics of, any one of the alternatives summarized in this brochure.

Grazing Environmental Impact Statement Phase

The Andrews Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be started in the spring of 1982. EIS scoping will be completed in conjunction with discussions on MFP alternatives in public meetings. This will allow the public to participate in designing a short, concise EIS document which addresses real issues and relevant alternatives relating to resource management practices.

During 1982 and early 1983, draft and final EIS documents will be prepared.

The draft EIS describes anticipated environmental impacts and consequences of the proposed action and alternatives. Upon completion, it will be released for public comment.

The final EIS responds to public comments on the adequacy of the draft EIS and makes necessary adjustments for accuracy, depth and scope of impact assessment. It may include additional alternatives which develop from the review of the draft EIS. The final EIS, like the land use alternatives, is a tool of analysis, not a decision document.

Decision Phase

• Development of Program Decision Document

During 1983, the District Manager will identify his decision, present the rationale for the decision and distribute copies to the public. The decision process involves reviewing each EIS alternative, and the benefits and costs of favoring one activity or resource over another. The District Manager will also review comments received on the final grazing EIS and will forward a summary of these along with the decision document to the State Director for his review and concurrence. If further information, analysis or allotment management plans indicate changes are required in the decisions, an update document will be published.

Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement Phase

The wilderness environmental impact statement process is described in a special section immediately following Table 2, Goals and Objectives of Land Use Alternatives.

PLANNING ISSUES

The major issues which helped direct the formation of land use plan alternatives for the Andrews Resource Area are summarized below. For additional details, refer to the Draft Land Use Alternative Brochure (July 1981).

Social and Economic Impacts

Allocations of BLM-administered lands for forage production, recreation use, wildlife habitat, minerals development and other resource demands influence the income and lifestyles of Harney County communities. The Grazing EIS and Wilderness EIS will analyze and display the economic costs and benefits of the preferred and other alternatives.

Range

Allocation of forage production is important to meet the needs of wildlife, livestock and wild horses, while maintaining or improving range condition, especially along riparian areas. The numbers and types of range improvements needed is an important issue.

Wilderness

The amount of land area to be preserved and managed for wilderness values is an important issue. The conflicts of wilderness designation with other uses, such as livestock management practices and mineral and energy activities need to be considered.

Wildlife

The wildlife species of Eastern Oregon range and forest lands are dependent on a wide variety of habitat types, ranging from those dominated by grass and shrubs to mature forests. Big game winter range habitat is of special concern due to the large numbers of animals which occupy the Andrews Resource Area during this critical period of the year. Vegetative manipulation (e.g., seedings, brush control, etc.), livestock grazing and other activities create habitat for some species while reducing habitat for others.

Recreation

There is interest and concern for the types of recreational uses that will be permitted on public lands, and the kinds of facilities that should be developed to accommodate forecasted demand. Interests include: environmental education, winter sports, hunting, fishing, camping and off-road vehicle use.

Mineral and Energy Resources

In light of present and future demands for minerals and energy, it is anticipated that mining and exploration activities will continue to increase. The need for permits, claims and leases will reflect this accelerated demand.

Lands

There are numerous requests from persons or groups for special use permits and privileges or land allocations for a single use (e.g., requests for rights-of-way, utility corridors, cooperative agreements, etc.).

Fire Management

Fire has long been a part of the natural ecology of Eastern Oregon. The role fire plays in ecosystem manipulation will continue to gain more interest due to the low cost. Conflicts with fire suppression in relation to resource values threatened will remain a sensitive subject.

Public Safety

Locally significant management practices are proposed with the intent of providing for public interests. At present, one such management practice for public safety is proposed.

- Construct a fence on approximately six miles of highway right-of-way along State Highway 205. The fence would be located from Hog House Canyon to Frenchglen with a cattleguard at Frenchglen. Each year collisions between vehicles and livestock occur, causing damage to the vehicles and, at times, injury to their passengers. Fencing would be the most effective tool for ensuring public safety.

If any future conflicts arise, similar management techniques will be considered.

Legal Requirements for Resource Protection

Various laws and regulations provide for a certain amount of land use allocations and management practices. These management practices may be implemented at any time without the completion of the planning process. Examples of these legal requirements include:

1. Meet the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in regards to Range, Resource Planning, Wilderness, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Visual Resource Management.

2. Protect known or suspected habitat of Federal and State-listed threatened, endangered and sensitive plants and animals.
3. Protect cultural resources in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
4. Protect soils to ensure sustained yield of renewable resources.
5. Protect air and water quality in accordance with Federal and State laws.
6. Process mineral leases, and exploration and development authorizations.

LAND USE ALTERNATIVES OVERVIEW

Several land use alternatives have been developed to provide the district with an analytical tool to use in selecting or constructing a preferred alternative. These alternatives combine recommendations for individual resource programs, and provide a range of resource management goals. The objectives of each goal describe management targets for each resource. These objectives are prioritized to reflect their significance in meeting the overall goal of each alternative. The first objective must be satisfied before the next objective is considered. For example, if range is listed before wildlife, all range management activities must be considered before any wildlife management activity. In this case, any direct conflicts between range and wildlife would be settled in favor of range.

Minimum Allocations and Management Practices

All land use alternatives will comply with Federal Laws, Executive Orders, regulations and policies relating to land use and resource management. The application of these laws automatically determines some land use allocation and management practices. Those laws which are most significant to BLM activities are available at the Burns District Office or by mail.

Scope of Alternatives

The alternatives range from one which emphasizes the production of commodity resources and the enhancement of local economic benefits to one which emphasizes protection of natural and cultural resource values. In the middle are two alternatives which are a blend of the other two. These four alternatives are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF LAND USE ALTERNATIVES

NOTE: All goals and objectives must meet legal requirements.

Alternative A

Goal: Emphasize production of commodity resources to enhance local economic benefits.

Objectives:

1. Improve and maintain vegetative conditions to obtain maximum livestock production. Maintain all existing improvements and continue existing AMPs.¹ Develop and implement AMPs and require improvements such as: seeding, brush control and manipulation (prescribed burning), juniper control, fencing, pipelines, spring and well developments. Continue livestock grazing in all riparian zones and allow restricted use in those riparian zones currently excluded (protected) from livestock grazing.
2. Keep public lands open for the exploration, development or collection of mineral resources, rights-of-way, utility corridors, and commodity, community or commercial uses.
3. Manage wildlife habitat to emphasize the production of big game species, sport fisheries, upland game birds and waterfowl.
4. Keep all public lands and roads open for a variety of recreation use and recommend construction of new facilities, where compatible with economic benefits.
5. Reduce wild horse herds to the minimum level necessary to maintain remnant populations.
6. Meet minimum standards for water quality.
7. Recommend no wilderness study areas (WSAs) for designation as wilderness.
8. Recommend no special management for scientific and educational values.

Alternative B

Goal: Emphasize production of livestock forage and other commodities while accommodating wildlife, recreation, wilderness, visual resources, water quality, and wild horses.

Objectives:

1. Improve and maintain vegetation conditions to benefit livestock and wildlife. Maintain all existing AMPs. Develop and implement AMPs on remaining allotments including such improvements as seeding, brush control and manipulation, juniper control fences, pipelines, spring and well development. Restrict livestock use in major perennial stream riparian zones. Allocate any surplus forage to livestock.
2. Keep public lands open for exploration, development or collection of mineral resources, rights-of-way, utility corridors and commodity, community or commercial uses.
3. Manage for diversity of wildlife habitat to provide for production of a variety of game animals, sport fisheries, upland game birds and waterfowl. Protect water quality with particular attention to those watersheds with major downstream water use such as Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and private irrigation.
4. Emphasize developed recreation opportunities including the use of off-road vehicles.
5. Recommend wilderness designation of those study areas, or portions thereof which are manageable and possess a variety of high quality wilderness values and other resource benefits, while resolving conflicts in favor of commodity resources. Implement or construct acceptable range improvements in these areas.
6. Maintain scenic quality along selected major travel routes.
7. Manage wild horse herd population within existing wild horse herd management plans.
8. Designate special management areas that do not conflict with commodity production.

¹ AMP - Allotment Management Plan - see glossary.

Alternative C

Goal: Emphasize wilderness, wildlife, water quality, visual and recreation resources while accommodating livestock forage production and other commodity production.

Objectives:

1. Manage for diversity of wildlife habitat to provide for production of a variety of game and non-game wildlife species. Restrict livestock use in all perennial stream riparian zones to enhance sport fisheries.
2. Provide for a variety of recreation opportunities including developed sites, dispersed recreation, off-road vehicles and limited access areas.
3. Recommend wilderness designation of study areas, or portions thereof, which are manageable and possess high quality wilderness values and other resource benefits while resolving major conflicts in favor of protecting natural systems. Implement or construct acceptable range improvements in these areas.
4. Maintain scenic quality along all state highways and selected county roads.
5. Provide for the protection and interpretation of outstanding scientific and educational values, i.e., special management areas.
6. Maintain or enhance water quality along major streams in all basins. Protect sensitive areas and fragile soils.
7. Manage wild horse populations within existing wild horse herd management plans and herd improvement practices for such factors as color, conformation and breed.
8. Improve and maintain vegetative conditions to benefit wildlife and livestock. Maintain all existing improvements and continue existing AMPs. Develop and implement AMPs on remaining allotments.
9. Keep public land open for the exploration and development of locatable minerals. Provide for exploration and development of leasable and salable minerals, rights-of-way and utility corridors and community or commercial uses. Provide for recreation use and collection of mineral resources.

Alternative D

Goal: Emphasize maximum protection and enhancement of natural values, such as wildlife habitat, water quality, undeveloped recreation opportunities, visual resources and wilderness qualities.

Objectives:

1. Recommend designation of all WSAs. Implement or construct acceptable range improvements in these areas.
2. Maintain or enhance the visual quality of the landscape in all areas of high sensitivity.
3. Provide for the protection and interpretation of identified scientific and educational values, i.e., special management areas.
4. Improve and maintain vegetative conditions to maximize wildlife and plant diversity and numbers. Manage and protect all riparian zones from off-road vehicle disturbance and exclude livestock from all perennial streams and other important riparian zones. Maintain or enhance water quality.
5. Emphasize undeveloped recreation opportunities, but provide limitations on use of off-road vehicles where they conflict with other objectives.
6. Increase wild horse numbers in herd management areas. Provide for an improvement in herd quality for such factors as color, conformation and breed.
7. Conduct land and mineral activities to maintain or enhance natural systems. Protect sensitive areas. Manage livestock grazing to maintain or enhance natural systems.

WILDERNESS

This Management Framework Plan (MFP) and a subsequent statewide wilderness Environmental Impact Statement comprise the second step of a three-step wilderness review. The first step was an inventory. During the inventory lands in the Andrews Resource Area were reviewed with respect to the presence of wilderness characteristics. Those areas which were found to be wilderness in character were identified as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). All other lands in the resource area were eliminated from further consideration in the wilderness review.

In the current step, alternate ways of using and managing the land in the study areas will be considered. After the close of the public comment period, the Area Manager and District Manager will submit their preferred alternative for wilderness to the State Director. The State Director may accept or modify the preferred alternative. Early in 1983, public meetings will be held to scope a draft Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) covering the State Director's preferred alternative (and other alternatives) for all study areas in Oregon. The draft EIS will be distributed for public review and comment during the winter of 1983-1984. Public hearings will be held on the draft EIS, and then a final statement will be prepared.

In the third step of the review, the State Director will submit his recommendations to BLM's national Director. Recommendations will be made, in turn, by the Director, Secretary of the Interior, and the President. The President will submit his recommendations to Congress.

This brochure describes alternatives for 17 WSAs comprising about 673,000 acres of federal land. Although all or part of seven of these areas are located outside of the Andrews Resource Area (see Table 4), this brochure and the public meetings on the Andrews MFP will also serve as forums for these WSAs.

The four land use allocation alternatives described in this brochure include one involving wilderness designation of all WSAs and one involving no wilderness designation of any WSAs. The "all wilderness" and "no wilderness" alternatives were developed to provide an analysis that covered the full range of decision options that are open to Congress.

Nine WSAs lie near or straddle the resource area's eastern boundary with the Vale District. These include the Sheepshead Mountains 2-72C, D,F,I,J; Winter Range 2-73A, H; Alvord Desert 2-74; and Disaster Peak 2-72D WSAs. The wilderness alternatives for these areas will be announced later this year when the Vale District's Southern Malheur MFP is distributed for public review and comment.

The Andrews MFP provides alternative land use allocations (for resource uses other than wilderness) for those portions of the nine study areas listed in the preceding paragraph that are located within the Andrews Resource Area. These alternative allocations represent how the land will be used and managed if the study areas are not designated wilderness. Some of the allocations may not be compatible with wilderness management. However, such allocation decisions will not be implemented until Congress determines whether the areas will be designated wilderness, and then only if the decision is to not designate the areas.

Until the time that Congress acts on each study area, all WSAs must be managed in accordance with the Bureau's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review, December 12, 1979 (available from the District and State Offices).

The wilderness studies are being conducted in accordance with a draft study policy developed by BLM's Washington Office. After the final study policy is published (scheduled for early 1982), you will be able to obtain copies from the Burns District Office and from the Oregon State Office in Portland.

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 provided that designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) be given priority in the development of land use plans. The Act defines these as:

"places within the public lands where special management attention is needed (when such areas are developed or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards."

Nominations for ACECs in the Andrews Resource Area were requested from the public and the District's resource specialists. Only one nomination was received from the public. Twenty-seven nominations, some overlapping in area, were received from various resource specialists. These nominations were evaluated by an interdisciplinary team of District personnel to assess their compliance with established criteria. Nominations which met the established criteria have been classified as "potential" ACECs. Three potential ACECs have been identified in the Andrews Resource Area.

The three potential ACECs were considered under the goals and objectives of each alternative. They would be accepted in Alternatives C & D. In Alternative B, the potential ACECs would be accepted but the management plans must allow grazing in order to be consistent with the criteria to emphasize livestock production.

The preferred alternative will identify which of the potential ACECs would be recommended for designation. The discretionary process of designation involves a decision that will:

- Consider present and potential uses of the public land area in question;
- Address the relative scarcity of the values involved;
- Consider alternatives that include management options that will allocate the resources to the combination of uses that best serves the public interest;
- Weigh long-term benefits to the public against short-term benefits;
- Consider views of the public and the overall expressions of public concern.

RESOURCE PROGRAM NARRATIVES

RANGE PROGRAM

The range program provides for the improvement and maintenance of rangeland condition in the Andrews Resource Area. The main objective of the range program is to produce a maximum sustained yield of livestock forage on BLM lands. The improvement and maintenance of watershed conditions and the vegetative resource is inherent in this objective. Important factors of the range program and their respective allocations are listed by alternative in Table 3.

• Initial or Short-Term Forage Allocations

Forage allocations for livestock would vary among alternatives to accommodate other resource values. Alternative "A" would accommodate some wild horses and would minimally reduce forage allocated to livestock. Alternative "B" would require an adjustment in livestock forage to accommodate wild horses and riparian values. Alternatives "C" and "D" would accommodate wild horses, special management areas, riparian areas, and wildlife. Refer to individual sections concerning each resource; riparian information is included in the wildlife section.

• Potential Long-Term Forage Production Increases

Forage production could be increased to minimize the adjustments in livestock allocations through management practices, land treatments and intensive pastures.

1. Management

• Intensive Management

Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) are outlines developed to establish the season of use, the number of livestock to permit on the range, and the range improvements necessary to intensively manage an allotment. Alternative "A" would develop 21 AMPs to intensively manage 1,533,498 acres of public land. Alternatives "B", "C", and "D" would implement AMPs and exclude range improvements only when other resource values would be impaired. Table 3 displays the difference in livestock forage allocations as a result of these trade-offs.

• Custodial Management

Scattered distribution and general location of public lands in scattered allotments or portions of allotments have made grazing administration expensive, difficult, and time consuming. Under custodial management, public lands would be managed less intensively. Alternative "A" would manage 39,897 acres under custodial management; three entire allotments (Hardie Summer, Otley Brothers, and Blitzen), and small portions of nine other allotments. Under Alternatives "B", "C" and "D" only the small portions of the nine allotments would be under custodial management.

• Fencing

Intensive and effective management of rangelands is dependent upon adequate fencing. Fencing would improve livestock distribution and permit grazing systems which would allow deferment and resting of rangelands.

Alternatives "A" and "B" would allow the construction of all proposed fences. Alternatives "C" would allow all fences needed for AMPs. Alternative "D" would restrict fencing to allow free movement of wild horses.

• Water Developments and Pipelines

Water developments could lengthen the season of use, distribute livestock grazing, and open up more range to grazing. Water developments must not impair wilderness values in proposed WSAs in Alternatives

"B", "C", and "D". Site-specific analyses will be conducted for all proposed projects in WSAs to determine whether they would comply with the wilderness interim management policy.

2. Land Treatments

Land treatments would be essential in the development of sound grazing systems; and would be initiated in conjunction with AMPs. The proposed land treatments would control brush and establish seedings.

Alternative "A" would implement land treatments on 288,851 acres. Acres of land

treatments would be restricted in Alternatives "B", "C", and "D" in ACECs, riparian areas and the WSAs proposed in each alternative. In Alternatives "C" and "D", RNAs* and crucial wildlife habitat would be left untreated. In Alternative "D", land treatments would not be allowed in wild horse herd management areas. As a result of these priorities and trade-offs, Alternative B land treatments would total 281,131 acres, Alternative C would total 195,626 acres and Alternative D, 86,370 acres. Refer to Table 3 and Map 2 for specific allocation and land treatment differences between alternatives.

*RNA - Research Natural Area

TABLE 3

FORAGE AND LAND USE ALLOCATIONS

ALTERNATIVES	UNITS	A	B	C	D
CURRENT FORAGE ALLOCATIONS					
Livestock Active Preference (existing use)	AUMs ¹		102,908		
Wild Horse Forage (existing use)	AUMs		6,600		
ALLOCATIONS OF EXISTING FORAGE PRODUCTION					
Livestock Forage	AUMs	92,106	84,634	75,549	45,317
Wild Horse Forage	AUMs	480	6,600	6,600	34,129 ²
Wildlife Forage (non-competitive)	AUMs	20,029	20,029	20,029	20,029
Wildlife Forage (competitive)	AUMs	0	0	4,063	4,063
Competitive Forage Reservations:					
Riparian Areas	AUMs	0	1,352	4,664 ³	6,892 ⁴
RNAs, Steens Summit					
ACEC, Lily Lake	AUMs	0	0	1,710	2,185
Total Competitive Forage					
Allocated	AUMs	92,586	92,586	92,586	92,586
Total Forage Allocated	AUMs	112,615	112,615	112,615	112,615
POTENTIAL FORAGE PRODUCTION INCREASES AND ASSOCIATED LAND TREATMENTS⁵					
Management	AUMs	28,000	28,000	20,000	10,000
Intensive Pastures (2,500 acres)	AUMs	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Graze Steens Summit Allotment	AUMs	500	500	0	0
Land Treatments:					
Brush Control	Acres	118,300	115,100	56,940	33,830
	AUMs	9,540	9,329	5,015	3,561
Seedings	Acres	170,551	166,031	138,686	52,740
	AUMs	29,612	27,609	23,653	10,136
Total Potential Production Increase	AUMs	77,652	75,438	58,668	33,697
Proposed Fences	Miles	340	340	337	173
Riparian Zones to be Protected	Miles	0	16.4	116	238
Wild Horses - South Steens HMA	Numbers	20-30	150-300	150-300	425+
- Alvord/Sheepshead HMA	Numbers	20-30	150-300	150-300	425+

¹ AUMs - Animal Unit Months - see glossary.

² 2,175 AUMs were subtracted to accommodate wildlife, riparian areas and special management areas.

³ 420 AUMs were subtracted due to overlaps with RNAs and Steens Summit ACEC.


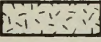


⁴ 1,728 AUMs were subtracted due to overlaps with Herd Management Areas, RNAs and Steens Summit ACEC.

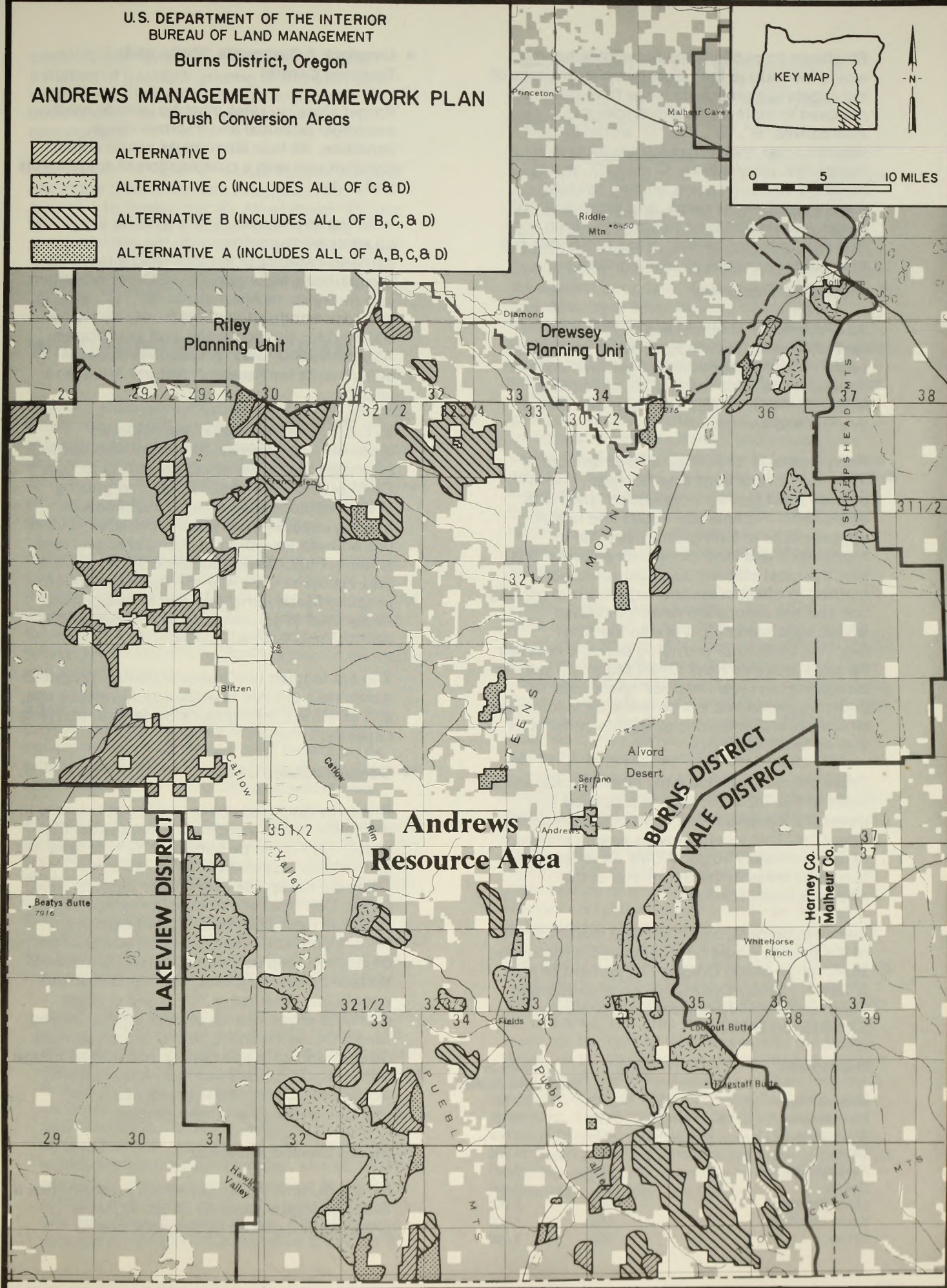
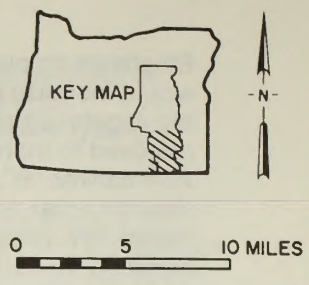
⁵ Potential forage production increases and land treatments that require Congressional funding are subject to budget constraints.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Burns District, Oregon

ANDREWS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
Brush Conversion Areas

-  ALTERNATIVE D
-  ALTERNATIVE C (INCLUDES ALL OF C & D)
-  ALTERNATIVE B (INCLUDES ALL OF B, C, & D)
-  ALTERNATIVE A (INCLUDES ALL OF A, B, C, & D)



Emphasis on public lands for wildlife habitat would increase in the future since large areas of big sagebrush on private lands have been removed to increase livestock forage. Alternatives "B", "C", and "D" would protect riparian areas and wetland areas from land treatments. Alternatives "C" and "D" would maintain the brush cover on deer fawning, summer and winter range, and bighorn sheep range; and restrict land treatments within one-half mile of raptor nesting areas and within two miles of sage grouse strutting grounds.

3. Intensive Pastures

All alternatives will include a proposal to develop approximately 2,500 acres of irrigated pastures from deteriorated sagebrush-covered Federal lands. This will include developing irrigation wells, a irrigation water distribution system, and fencing.

The purpose is to develop a large amount of forage on a very small total acreage. This will provide relief for higher elevation lands with exceptional multiple use values and limited opportunities to limit grazing use due to topography and land ownership patterns. It is also the most efficient and cost-effective method to offset proposed reductions in grazing use and will reduce the need for crested wheatgrass seedings. It is also the most practical method of providing periodic non-use for such areas as Trout Creek Mountain without disrupting the local livestock operations. In addition, provisions will be made for wildlife use which will maximize onsite wildlife benefits as well as livestock forage.

There are nine suitable sites totaling 6,400 acres listed in the Table below. It is proposed to develop a maximum of 2,500 acres from these nine sites. This would provide a rapid increase of approximately 10,000 AUMs for relief of over-obligated areas in the South-end of the Andrews Resource Area.

The development, operation, and maintenance of the project would be a combined effort by the BLM, range users, Oregon Department of Fish & Game, Harney County Range Improvement Fund, and possibly Agriculture Conservation Stabilization Service.

Project Name	Acres	Increase in Production (AUMs)
Schouver Flat	1,000	6,000
Pony Express	800	1,900
Trout Creek	200	600
Miller	200	1,000
Pueblo Valley	1,400	7,000
Colony	900	5,400
North Sandhills	900	2,800
South Sandhills	500	1,600
Grove	500	3,000

• Livestock Adjustments, Shifts, and Trespass Control

Proper stocking rates must be used to reach maximum potential and improve range condition. All four alternatives would adjust livestock use with a combination of adjustments and shifts.

In all the alternatives, active grazing use would be adjusted to conform with the existing carrying capacity in the following allotments: Pueblo-Lone Mountain, Trout Creek Mountain, and Andrews. In Alternatives "B", "C", and "D" livestock forage allocations would be further adjusted for riparian areas, and wild horses. Alternatives "C" and "D" would include adjustments for Research Natural Areas and wildlife.

In Trout Creek Mountain and Andrews community allotments, the unsatisfied portion of active preference would be shifted to Tule Springs Allotment, and a rotational grazing system implemented. After adjustments to grazing capacity have been completed, area of use boundaries would be formalized and new allotment boundaries established. These new boundaries would allow the development of properly functioning Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) and improve the manageability for BLM and livestock users.

The ear tagging and trespass control programs would help prevent unauthorized livestock use, and assist in keeping stocking rates at carrying capacity.

• Domestic Sheep Use

Presently domestic sheep use is not licensed in Andrews. Public comment has indicated that sheep use should be considered in the land use alternatives. Alternative "A" would allow domestic sheep use in and near bighorn sheep range. Domestic sheep could be grazed in the Andrews Resource Area without significant wildlife conflicts. Alternative "B" would allow domestic sheep use with stipulations to insure disease control to protect the bighorn sheep population. Alternative "C" would prohibit domestic sheep use on or near bighorn sheep range. Domestic sheep use would be allowed on deer and antelope ranges, but wildlife forage needs would be satisfied first. Alternative "D" would prohibit domestic sheep use on all bighorn, antelope and deer ranges.

• Steens Summit Allotment

Steens Summit Allotment which presently has a livestock forage capacity of 500 AUMs is presently not grazed by livestock due to

conflicts with other non-livestock resources. Initiation of livestock grazing in this allotment would help alleviate the reductions needed in other allotments which are presently overstocked.

Alternatives "A" and "B" would license livestock use in the Steens Summit Allotment from August 1 to September 30. Alternatives "C" and "D" would exclude livestock use from the allotment and recommend the establishment of an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect botanical, wildlife and scenic values.

WILDERNESS PROGRAM

The four alternative allocations of 17 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) being covered within this planning effort are described below. The physical characteristics and the wilderness values are described for those study areas or portions thereof which would be recommended for wilderness designation under each alternative.

It should be noted that because the goal and objectives of each alternative vary as does the importance (priority) of wilderness, the amount of wilderness acreage increases from Alternative A through D. In addition to the descriptions, the differences in the alternatives are shown on Map 3 and 4, and Table 4.

Alternative A - This alternative emphasizes the production of commodity resources and the enhancement of local economic benefits. The criteria provide that no Wilderness Study Areas be recommended for designation as wilderness.

Alternative B - Under the goal of this alternative (to emphasize livestock and other commodities, while accommodating other resource values) only those Wilderness Study Areas or portions thereof which are manageable and have a wide variety of high quality wilderness values and other resource benefits, will be recommended as being suitable for designation. All or part of four study areas meet these requirements and will be described below.

2-85F - High Steens - 46,750 acres of this 65,940 acre WSA are included in this alternative. This area includes the high ridge of Steens Mountain, the canyons and much of the foothills of the east face of the mountain, and the highly scenic canyons of Kiger Gorge, Big Indian, Little Indian, and Wildhorse Creeks. In addition to its scenic values, the WSA contains a wide variety of high quality recreation opportunities, as well as other significant resource values relating to geology, wildlife, vegetation, ecological interrelationships, and educational opportunities. The remaining acreage is included in Alternative C or D. It is

eliminated from this alternative because of conflicts with other resources, poor manageability, and generally lower quality wilderness characteristics.

2-81 - Pueblo Mountain - 57,930 acres of this WSA are included in Alternative B. This acreage generally includes the main ridge of the Pueblo Mountain on the west, the high meadows and valleys in the central portion of the area, and Pueblo Peak and the major drainages of Cottonwood, Colony, and Van Horn Creeks near the eastern boundary. This alternative also includes a very small amount of acreage extending into the Winnemucca District in Nevada. The Pueblo Mountain area contains high quality primitive recreation opportunities for activities such as hiking, hunting, camping, and sightseeing. Other features such as the area's geology, wildlife, scenic values, vegetation, ecological interrelationships and educational values substantially contribute to the wilderness qualities of the area. The remainder of the WSA is included in Alternative C or D. It is eliminated from this alternative due to conflicts with other resource uses, poor opportunities for management, and lower quality wilderness values.

2-86F - Little Blitzen Gorge - This 9,380 acre WSA is included in Alternative B in its entirety. Located on Steens Mountain adjacent to WSA 2-85F, the study area consists of the Little Blitzen Gorge from the headwaters near the high Steens ridge on the east to a boundary with private land on the west. Like the two previous WSAs this area has a wide variety of high quality recreational opportunities including fishing, hunting, sightseeing, and hiking. Other high quality features present within this area include geological, botanical, and scenic values.

2-86E - Blitzen River - Alternative B includes 15,720 acres of this 52,060-acre study area. The main feature of this WSA is the canyon of the Donner und Blitzen River from Page Spring campground south to near the Blitzen Crossing campground. This portion of the WSA also includes the lower three miles of Fish Creek to its confluence with the Blitzen. A major ridgeline west of the river serves as the western boundary for this area. The area includes the high quality resource benefits of wild horses and the scenic values of the Blitzen River. In addition, the area also has exceptional recreation values including opportunities for hiking, fishing, camping, and hunting. The remainder of the study area is included within Alternative C or D and was omitted from this alternative because of problems with manageability, resource conflicts and/or lower quality wilderness values.

Alternative C - All or part of nine wilderness study areas are included in this alternative which emphasizes wilderness and other resource values. The C alternative study areas all have several high quality wilderness values and possess other resource benefits which contribute to the area's wilderness qualities.

2-85F - High Steens - In addition to the area included in Alternative B, approximately 13,500 acres are added in this alternative. These areas are located on the perimeter of the WSA on all sides and include the high meadows of the western slope of the mountain as well as some of the foothill country of the lower eastern slope. These are areas which are considered to have some resolvable manageability problems with respect to the presence of private land as well as being somewhat lower in wilderness quality.

2-81 - Pueblo Mountains - Alternative C includes an additional 9,600 acres. These portions of the WSA which were excluded in the previous alternative include a small parcel along the eastern boundary, some low foothills on the north, and the low foothills of the western slope of the main Pueblo ridgeline. In all cases they were eliminated from Alternative B because they possess generally lower quality wilderness characteristics than the remainder of the WSA, and have some difficulties with regard to manageability. In addition, the western foothills area had conflicts with range improvements in the previous alternative which are resolved in favor of wilderness in this alternative.

2-86F - Little Blitzen Gorge - For this WSA, Alternative C is the same as Alternative B.

2-86E - Blitzen River - An additional 18,440 acres are added to this study area for Alternative C. This acreage is located on the north and east side of the WSA (includes portions of the lower western slopes of the Steens Mountain) and a small amount of the southwestern portion of the study area. These areas were eliminated from the B alternative primarily on the basis of lower quality wilderness values. In addition, the northeastern corner had some manageability problems with respect to the presence of private land, while the southwestern corner had conflicts with other resource uses.

2-85G - South Fork of the Donner und Blitzen River - The C alternative includes 22,230 acres of this study area for wilderness. The WSA primarily includes the lower western slopes and the table land of the western portion of the Steens Mountain fault block. The predominate feature of the area is a major portion of the South Fork of the Blitzen River above Indian Creek and the Blitzen Crossing Campground. That portion of the WSA which is included in this alternative includes the river corridor and a large amount of

the study area to the west. The study area is recognized as having a variety of high quality recreation opportunities (such as hiking, camping, hunting, and fishing) but has only one other multiple use value (wild horses) which enhances its wilderness character. Those portions of the WSA which were excluded from this alternative possess manageability problems or generally lower quality wilderness values.

2-85H - Home Creek - Just over 19,000 acres of this WSA is included in this alternative. The study area consists of the extreme western edge of the Steens Mountain fault block and includes a portion of the Catlow Rim and several prominent drainages which cut through the western side of the mountain. Home Creek Canyon is the most spectacular of these drainages. The portion of the study area which is recommended in this alternative contains several high quality recreation opportunities, including hiking, hunting, and sightseeing, as well as several other resource characteristics which enhance the area's wilderness values. These characteristics include geological formations, the presence of a concentration of wild horses, and a valuable wildlife area which contains a high concentration of raptors. Those portions of this area not included in the C alternative were eliminated primarily due to lower quality wilderness values.

2-83 - Alvord Peak - In Alternative C 14,505 acres of this study area would be designated for wilderness. The study area contains the high peaks of the south end of the Steens Mountain ridgeline and their foothills. Like the Home Creek WSA, this area possesses several high quality recreation opportunities including hiking, hunting, and sightseeing. In addition the area also has other resource qualities such as geological formations, wild horse concentration, and a resident population of bighorn sheep. The small portion on the northeast which is not included in C was eliminated due to manageability conflicts.

2-82 - Rincon - Approximately 41,580 acres of this WSA is included in the C alternative. The entire study area lies to the west of the Pueblo Mountains and includes the major topographic features of the southern end of the Catlow Rim on the west, Lone Mountain on the southwest, and Oregon End Table on the east. That portion of the WSA included in this alternative contains all of the Catlow Rim and Lone Mountain. Again the high quality recreational opportunities include hiking, hunting, and sightseeing. This area contains an additional high value resource, that being the Catlow Rim, a prominent raptor nesting area. The remainder of this WSA was eliminated from this alternative because of the absence of high quality wilderness values as well as conflicts and manageability.

1-146A - Hawksie Walksie - The C alternative for this study area includes 43,295 acres for wilderness designation. The WSA contains the major features of Hawk Mountain on the north, an intermittently dry lakebed known as Hawksie Walksie in the south central part of the area, and the northern end of Big Springs Table along the southeastern boundary. The recreational values which occur in the WSA include hiking, camping, and sightseeing. The other resource values present in the area are geological, vegetative, and historical/archaeological in nature. This study area is also contiguous (for 11 miles) with the administratively endorsed wilderness proposal for the Charles Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. The area eliminated from this alternative is basically the eastern third of the WSA, and was not recommended in C because of low quality wilderness values and conflicts.

Alternative D - Because the emphasis of this alternative is the maximum protection of natural values including wilderness, all portions of all wilderness study areas are included.

2-85F - High Steens - An additional 5,720 acres will be added in this alternative, bringing the total for this alternative to 65,940 acres. The areas which were added include a large part of the southeastern corner and scattered areas with existing mining developments. These areas weren't included in earlier alternatives because of the absence of high quality wilderness values and problems with manageability (specifically in the mining areas).

2-81 - Pueblo Mountains - Only 500 acres will be added to this WSA in Alternative D. The elimination of this acreage in the previous alternatives was due to the management difficulties presented by the existence of several scattered mining developments. The total acreage in this alternative is 68,030.

2-86F - Little Blitzen Gorge - For this WSA, Alternative D is the same as shown in Alternatives B and C.

2-86E - Blitzen River - 17,900 acres will be added to this study area for Alternative D. This area is located west of a large ridgeline in the central portion of the WSA and is comprised of low table land and wide flat bottomed valleys. It was eliminated from the previous alternatives due to the presence of a large number of range improvements. These improvements not only lessen the wilderness quality of this portion of the study area, but would also make it difficult to effectively manage the area for wilderness. The total acreage included in this alternative is approximately 52,060.

2-85G - South Fork of the Donner und Blitzen River - Alternative D will add just over 13,600 acres to the area included in C. The two portions of the study area to be added at this time include the extreme western and eastern ends of the WSA. The western end was eliminated from the other alternatives because it does not possess high quality wilderness values. The eastern side was excluded due to the presence of a large amount of private land which extends into the study area creating manageability problems. The total recommendation for this alternative is 35,850 acres.

2-85H - Home Creek - Slightly more than 6,000 acres are being added in this alternative. This acreage consists of two areas of very gently rolling terrain on the east and southeastern boundary of this WSA. The exclusion of these areas from the previous alternatives was due to the lack of quality wilderness values in both areas and the existence of some manageability problems due to the presence of private land in the southeastern parcel. The recommendation for this WSA in Alternative D is about 25,120 acres.

2-83 - Alvord Peak - Only 150 acres of this study area were omitted from Alternative C. This amounts to several very small parcels which occur along a powerline in the northeast corner of the WSA. These parcels were omitted from Alternative C due to manageability problems. The total acreage for this WSA in Alternative D is 14,655 acres.

2-82 - Rincon - Approximately 55,965 additional acres in this WSA are added in Alternative D. This acreage includes all of the Oregon End Table portion of the study area, much of the extreme eastern side of the northern part of the WSA, and a small portion of the southwestern corner. The southwestern corner was not included in Alternative C due to the presence of private land parcels, the need to maintain existing access routes to those parcels, and the resulting management problems created by that need for access. The remainder of the area was left out of the previous alternative due to the relative absence of high quality wilderness values, management problems created by the presence of a number of range improvements, and several conflicts with other resource activities. The total acreage for this alternative is approximately 97,545 acres.

1-146A - Hawksie Walksie - About 25,065 additional acres of this study area will be included in the D alternative. This acreage consists of the gently rolling terrain of the western foothills of Hawk Mountain along the western side of the WSA. This part of the WSA was eliminated from the C alternative due to the absence of high quality wilderness values and conflicts with other resource uses. The total acreage of this WSA is 68,360.

2-77 - Mahogany Ridge - All 27,370 acres of this study area is included in the D alternative. The WSA consists of high, flat-topped, table land which has been deeply cut by three perennial streams, in the north central portion of the Trout Creek Mountains. Although the WSA contains high value recreational opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, and sightseeing as well as supplemental botanical features, the area has a significant amount of private land scattered within its boundaries. In addition, most of these private inholdings are located along the stream corridors which are expected to be the primary recreational use corridors. Because of the manageability problems this would create, the study area was not included in either of the previous alternatives.

2-23L - Stonehouse - For this WSA, Alternative D includes all 21,000 acres. The study area is located on the northern extension of the Steens Mountain ridgeline and contains a steep east facing escarpment and high meadows on the west side of the area. Although the area has wilderness qualities including recreational opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting, and sightseeing, as well as special scenic quality values, these qualities were not present in sufficient quantities for it to be included in either of the previous alternatives.

2-14 - Malheur River-Bluebucket Creek - The 5,560 acres of this relatively small study area are included in this alternative. The WSA is located in the Drewsey Planning Unit of the Drewsey-Riley Resource Area near the Malheur National Forest northeast of Burns. The area consists of three relatively flat-topped plateaus which are separated by the perennial streams which give the study area its name. The WSA offers quality recreational opportunities for hiking, camping, fishing, and sightseeing, but has no noteworthy special features which add to the area's wilderness quality. The area's relatively irregular configuration also presents some management difficulties.

2-87 - Bridge Creek - All of this area's 14,060 acres are included in this alternative. The area is part of the northwestern slope of the Steens Mountain fault block. The gently rolling terrain of the majority of this area is deeply cut by two major drainages, Bridge and Mud Creeks. The WSA offers quality recreational opportunities for several recreational activities such as hiking, camping, and sightseeing, but possesses no other features which add to the area's wilderness values.

2-23M - Stonehouse-Lower Stonehouse - The 8,090 acres of this WSA are located just southeast of the Stonehouse (2-23L) area. This study area is also located on the northern portion

of the Steens Ridge and includes little more than the east facing escarpment and the top of the ridge. Opportunities for hiking, hunting, and sightseeing are the primary recreational values found in the area with special scenic quality values adding to the wilderness characteristics. The relatively small size of this WSA in combination with its orientation to the landform would increase the problems of managing this area. It is the concern with regard to management in addition to the lack of high quality wilderness attributes which prevented this area from being included in the previous alternatives.

2-78 - Red Mountain - This 14,730 acre WSA is located on the western edge of the Trout Creek Mountains. It contains one prominent peak (Red Mountain), and several small intermittent drainages which cut through the area as they drain to the west. This area offers significant opportunities for only two recreational activities and has no other high value wilderness qualities.

2-84 - Basque Hills - This extremely large study area in the southeastern corner of the Andrews Resource Area is one of several WSAs which straddle the district boundary. The area contains rolling hills, relatively small, scattered ridgelines, and a large amount of very gently rolling to flat terrain. The area contains no known high value recreational opportunities and only one special feature which adds to the area's wilderness quality (the area contains what may be a newly discovered plant species). The most significant aspect of the Basque Hills study area is its size of 137,220 acres.

1-146B - Hawksie Walksie - This 8,520 acre study area is located entirely within the Lakeview District. The area consists of flat to moderately rolling terrain with low hills and erosion gullies located southwest of Hawk Mountain. There have been no high quality recreational opportunities or other special features identified which significantly contribute to the area's wilderness values. This area does, however, have a common boundary with an administratively endorsed wilderness area on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge.

TABLE 4

WILDERNESS**WSA Names and Numbers****Alternatives**

		A	B	C	D
High Steens	2-85F	O	46,750	60,220	65,940
Pueblo Mountains	2-81	O	57,930 ¹	67,530 ¹	68,030 ^{1*}
Little Blitzen Gorge	2-86F	O	9,380	9,380	9,380
Blitzen River	2-86E	O	15,720	34,160	52,060
South Fork of the Donner und Blitzen	2-85G	O		22,230	35,850
Home Creek	2-85H	O		19,080	25,120 [*]
Alvord Peak	2-83	O		14,505	14,655
Rincon	2-82	O		41,580 ²	97,545 ^{3*}
Hawksie Walksie	1-146A	O		43,295 ⁴	68,360 ⁵
Mahogany Ridge	2-77	O			27,370
Stonehouse	2-23L	O			21,000 ⁶
Malheur River-Bluebucket Creek	2-14	O			5,560 ⁷
Bridge Creek	2-87	O			14,060
Lower Stonehouse	2-23M	O			8,090
Red Mountain	2-78	O			14,730
Basque Hills	2-84	O			137,220 ^{8*}
Hawksie Walksie	1-146B	O			8,520 ⁹
TOTAL		O	129,780	311,980	673,490
Total in Andrews Area		O	129,180	291,035	524,260

* The acreages of these WSAs have been revised from the figures reported in the final inventory decisions according to more precise measurement of the areas: boundaries of the WSAs have not been changed.

¹ 600 acres are located in the Winnemucca District, Nevada

² 1,150 acres are located in the Lakeview District

³ 2,330 acres are located in the Lakeview District

⁴ 19,195 acres are located in the Lakeview District

⁵ 44,260 acres are located in the Lakeview District

⁶ 12,000 acres are located in the Drewsey Planning Unit

⁷ All of this WSA is located in the Drewsey Planning Unit

⁸ 75,960 acres are located in the Lakeview District

⁹ All of this WSA is located in the Lakeview District

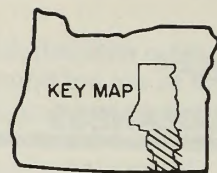
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Burns District, Oregon

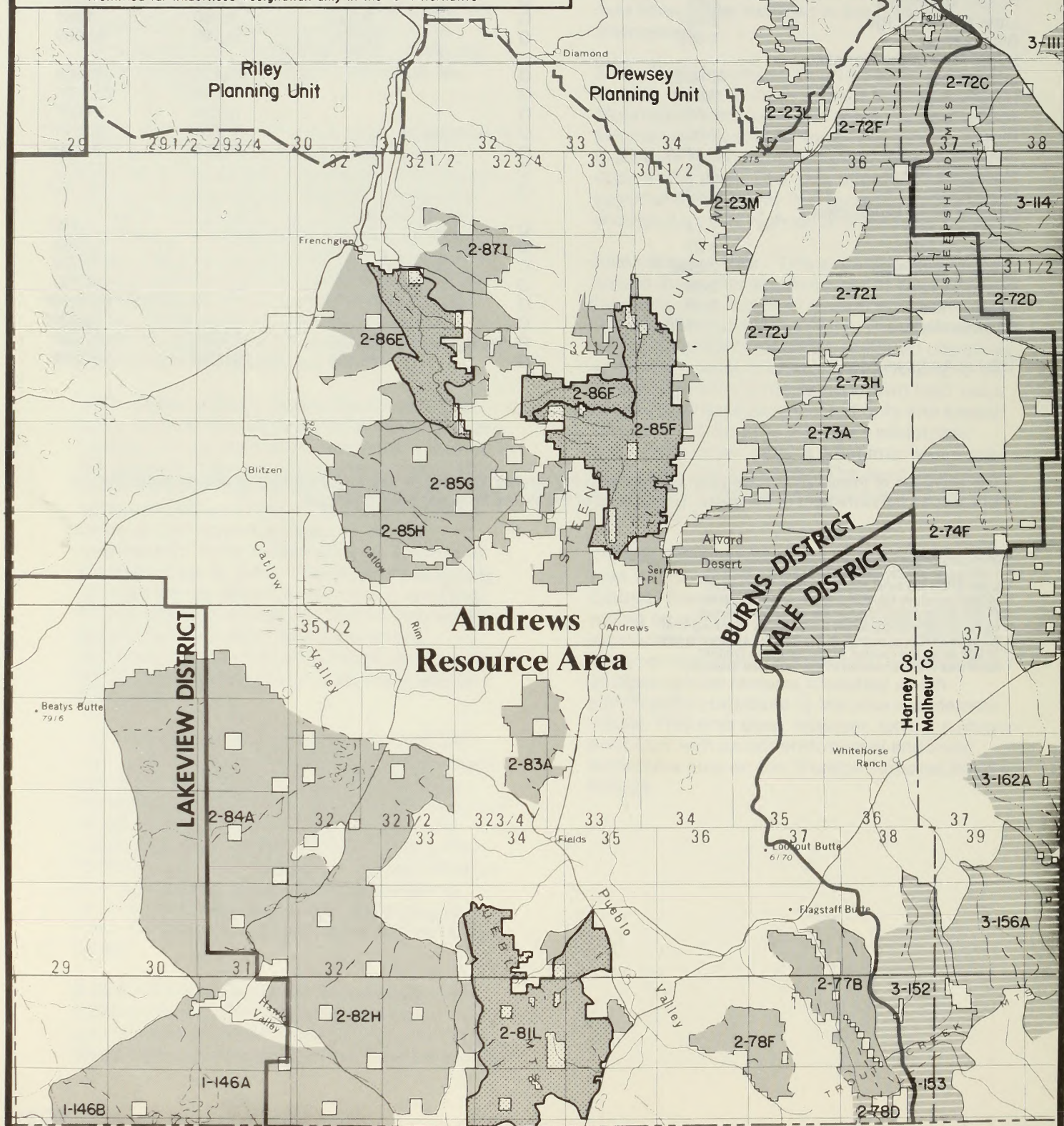
ANDREWS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
Wilderness Designation In Alternative "B"

- 2-86E** WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS
- IDENTIFIED AS WILDERNESS IN ALTERNATIVE "B"**
- 3-II4** WILDERNESS STUDIES TO BE CONDUCTED IN SOUTHERN MALHEUR MFP, VALE DISTRICT

NOTE: The Malheur-Bluebucket WSA (2-14A) in the Drewsey Planning Unit is identified for wilderness designation only in the "D" Alternative



0 5 10 MILES



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Burns District, Oregon

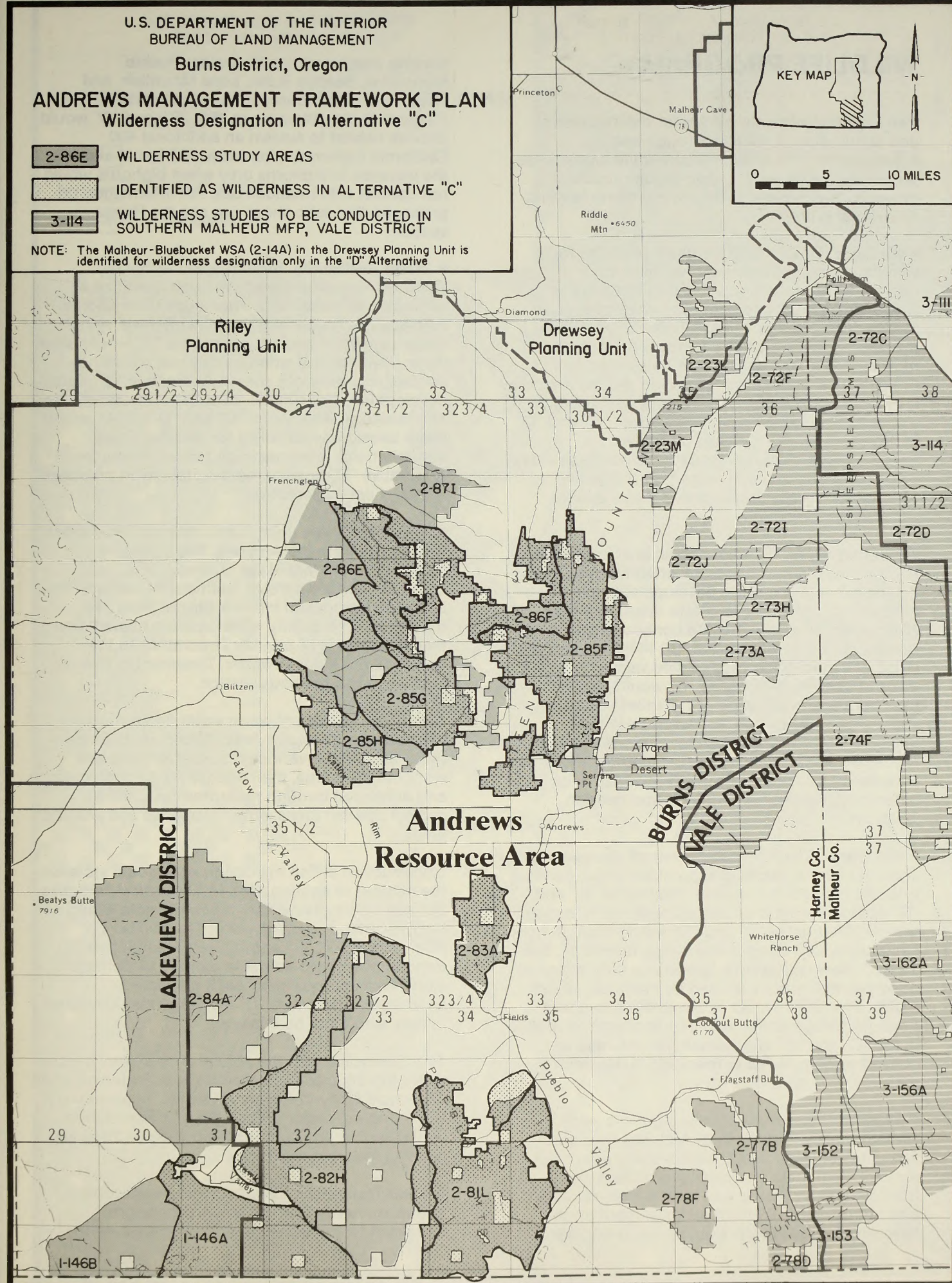
ANDREWS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
Wilderness Designation In Alternative "C"

- 2-86E** WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS
- IDENTIFIED AS WILDERNESS IN ALTERNATIVE "C"**
- 3-114** WILDERNESS STUDIES TO BE CONDUCTED IN SOUTHERN MALHEUR MFP, VALE DISTRICT

NOTE: The Malheur-Bluebucket WSA (2-14A) in the Drewsey Planning Unit is identified for wilderness designation only in the "D" Alternative



0 5 10 MILES



WILDLIFE PROGRAM

The wildlife program provides for the abundance and distribution of wildlife through habitat management. The most crucial wildlife habitats are wetlands, riparian areas, sage grouse strutting grounds, bird nesting sites, and big game fawning and winter range.

- **Wetlands.** One of BLM's highest priorities for wildlife habitat management has been the improvement of wetlands. Existing wetlands in Andrews are crucial to over 60 species of aquatic birds and four fish species. All alternatives would provide for improvement of wetlands. Under Alternative "A" wetlands would be opened to livestock use. Alternative "B" would require periodic livestock use of wetlands. Livestock use would be excluded from wetlands in Alternatives "C" and "D". In Alternatives "B", "C" and "D", wetland improvements must not impair the wilderness study areas proposed for each respective alternative. Alternative "D" also requires that visual quality would not be impaired.

- **Riparian Areas.** Riparian habitat is of principal wildlife importance. Livestock often trample and deteriorate habitat. Water developments can be designed to protect or re-create riparian habitat. Alternative "A" would provide continued grazing in riparian zones. In Alternative "B", livestock and wild horse use must not impair wildlife values on 16.4 miles of stream. Alternative "C" would require treatment and restoration of 116 miles of stream, restricting livestock use as described in the respective allotment management plans. Alternative "D" would treat 238 miles of stream under the same outlines as "C". Refer to Table 3 and Map 4 for differences between alternatives and riparian locations.

- **Big Game.** The Andrews Resource Area provides good habitat for substantial numbers of big game, a valuable recreation resource. Alternative "A" and "B" would allocate only non-competitive forage to wildlife. Alternative "C" and "D" would allocate non-competitive and competitive forage to wildlife. See Table 3. **Non-competitive** forage was determined to be forage not directly utilized by livestock, 20,029 AUMs. The 4,063 AUMs of **competitive** forage is livestock forage which would be allocated to wildlife in the "C" and "D" alternatives. For the ratio to convert wildlife AUMs to livestock AUMs, refer to glossary.

- **Bighorn Sheep.** Historically, bighorns were present throughout much of Andrews Resource Area but domestic sheep diseases and poaching exterminated them. Today, bighorns have been transplanted on Steens and have a high recreation and trophy value. Bighorn establishment on the following four locations would provide additional

hunting and recreational viewing: Pueblo Mountains, Beattys Butte, Lone Mountain, and ridges and buttes between Tule Springs and Flagstaff Butte. Alternatives "B", "C", and "D" would provide habitat to sustain an additional 400 California bighorns. Alternative "A" would allow for the increase in bighorns only when bighorns would not conflict with livestock use. For information on proposed domestic sheep use see the Range section.

- **Water Availability.** Several areas within the Andrews Resource Area have been identified as providing an inadequate water supply for wildlife. Availability of water at three mile intervals would enhance wildlife habitat. Alternative "A" would allow water development when wildlife use would not conflict with livestock use. In Alternative "B", water developments for wildlife must benefit both wildlife and livestock. Alternative "C" and "D" would permit water developments solely for wildlife. These improvements must not impair visual resources in Alternative "D" or wilderness suitability in proposed WSAs of each alternative.

- **Fisheries.** Three unique trout species inhabit cold water streams in the Andrews Resource Area; redband trout, Whitehorse cutthroat trout, and Lahontan cutthroat trout. Additionally, rainbow trout has been introduced into the Blitzen River and tributaries. The quality of the riparian habitat along these streams is of primary importance to the quality of the fishery habitat. Treatment of this is discussed in a previous section.

A sensitive species of warm water fish is found in the Andrews Resource Area: Alvord chub. Since these fish inhabit various tributary streams and sloughs in the area, their habitat will be protected and enhanced through measures designed to protect riparian areas, stream fisheries and wetland areas.

Construction of fish impoundments would increase the number of angling days in Andrews. Alternative "A" requires that new fish impoundments would not limit or reduce livestock water availability. Alternatives "B", "C" and "D" require that fish impoundments would not impair the wilderness study areas proposed for each respective alternative. Alternative "D" also requires that visual quality would not be impaired.

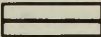
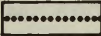
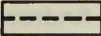
Two reservoirs, with the potential for stocking warm water fish species (Solomon Canyon Reservoir and Waterhole Canyon Reservoir) would increase warm water angling opportunities. All four alternatives would allow warm water fish stocking of these two existing livestock reservoirs.

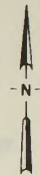
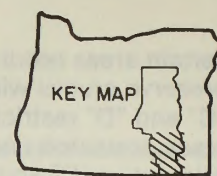
- **Land Treatments.** Seedings and brush control increase available forage and are therefore beneficial to some wildlife species. However, in

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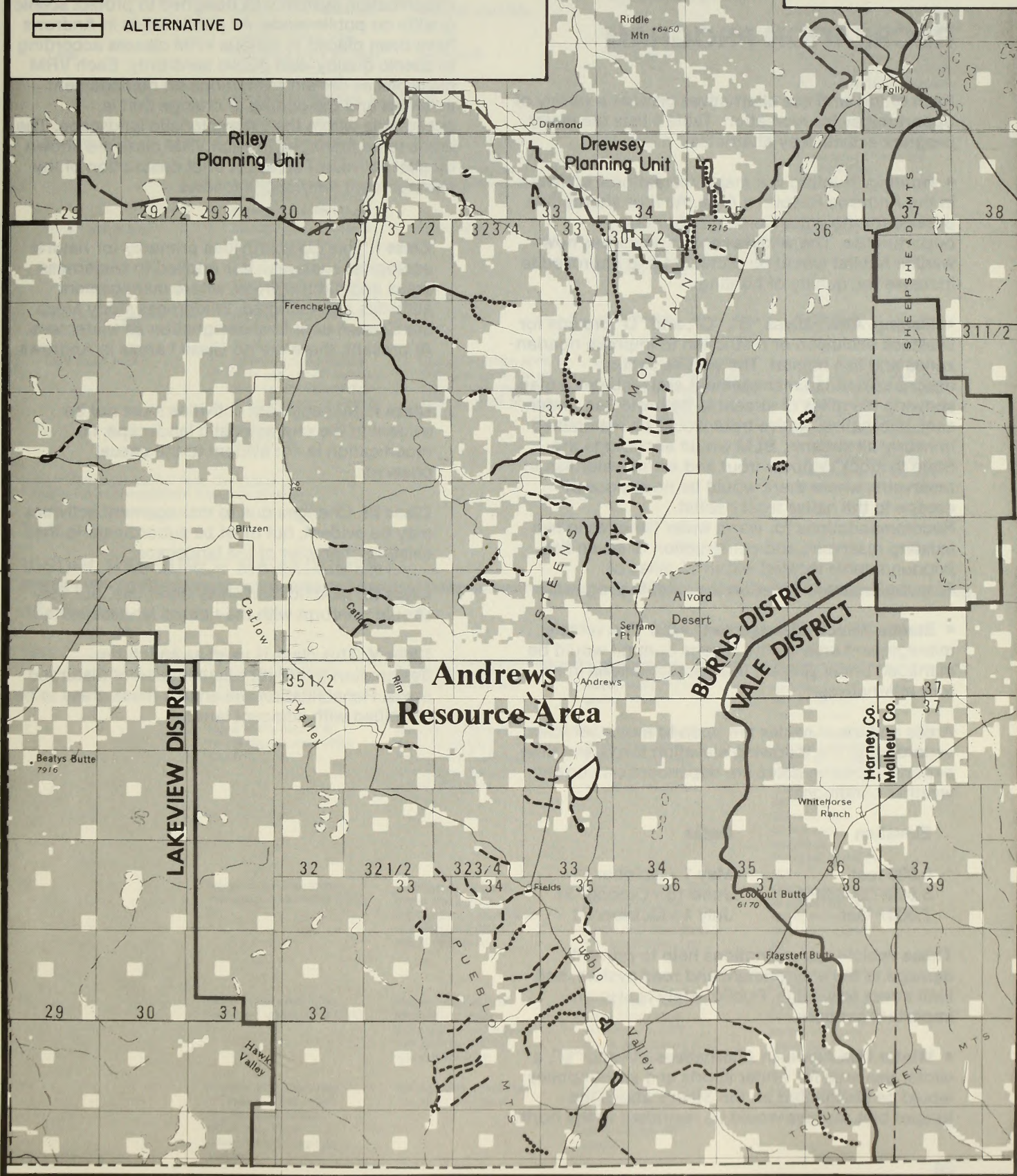
Burns District, Oregon

ANDREWS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
Wetland & Riparian Protection Areas

-  ALTERNATIVES B, C, & D
-  ALTERNATIVES C & D
-  ALTERNATIVE D



0 5 10 MILES



certain areas seedings should be restricted to preserve crucial wildlife habitat. Alternatives "B", "C" and "D" restrict land treatments in the riparian areas protected under each respective alternative. Alternative "C" and "D" restrict land treatments in deer fawning, summer and winter ranges, bighorn sheep range, sagegrouse strutting grounds and raptor nesting areas.

RECREATION PROGRAM

Each of the land use alternatives provide a variety of opportunities for recreation. Table 5 lists the major program activities by alternative.

- **Hunting.** Hunting is a major recreational activity in the Andrews Resource Area. All four alternatives provide for the enhancement of hunting opportunities. The wildlife section describes how wildlife habitat would be protected and improved to increase the quality of hunting.

- **Fishing.** Alternatives "B", "C", and "D" provide for livestock exclusion or restriction to improve riparian zones and fish habitat. The wildlife section describes riparian management and includes a map showing the miles of stream to be protected under each alternative. Native trout would be maintained in nearly all streams. BLM would encourage the State to stock rainbow trout and warm water fish in reservoirs, where there would be no chance of escape to the native trout habitat. Recommendations for warm water fisheries in two existing reservoirs and construction of seven fish impoundments located within 15 miles of Frenchglen are included in the wildlife program.

- **Steens Vehicle Management Area.** The vehicle management area on the Steens Summit would be managed under present interim restrictions in all four alternatives.

Areas and travel routes are open to motor vehicles according to the following elevation levels and time periods. Opening dates are dependent on current weather conditions.

Elevation	Dates
5,500 feet	May 1 - October 31
5,500-7,000 feet	June 15 - October 31
7,000+ feet	July 1 - October 31

These vehicle use restrictions help to prevent damage to the environment and road system, and limit stress to wildlife. Public safety is also an important concern.

- **Winter Use Areas.** In Alternatives "A" and "B", a winter use area for winter sports and snowmobiles would be designated on the Steens above the juniper belt. Access would be restricted to the north

and south Steens loop road. In Alternatives "C" and "D" no winter use area would be designated due to conflicts with wildlife winter range. Vehicles passing through deer and antelope winter range on the way to winter use areas would cause stress to wildlife during a critical season.

- **Visual Resource Management (VRM).** The VRM classification system was designed to protect scenic quality on public lands. All public lands in Andrews have been placed in various VRM classes according to scenic quality and public sensitivity. Each VRM class places certain restrictions on management activities and the degree of change that is acceptable within the characteristic landscape. The areas to be managed in each VRM class are shown by alternative in Table 6. A brief description of the management restrictions follows.

Class I. This class provides primarily for natural ecological changes. It is applied to wilderness areas and natural areas, where management activities are restricted. Wilderness study areas are Class II until final designation as wilderness. At present, there are no Class I areas in Andrews.

Class II. Management activities must not be evident in the characteristic landscape, i.e., modification is not evident to the casual observer.

Class III. Changes due to management activities may be evident, but must be subordinate to the existing character of the landscape.

Class IV. Modifications may dominate, but they should conform with the natural landscape.

Class V. This class is used as an interim designation to permit rehabilitation of disturbed areas. Rehabilitation will enable these areas to be classified with adjacent lands.

TABLE 5

MAJOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

ALTERNATIVES

Recreation Opportunity	A	B	C	D
Steens Recreation Lands	Manage 193,850 acres as livestock at Lily Lake to -acquire new inholdings -limit new roads -develop hiking trails	Same as A. Plus manage enhance wetlands.	Same as B. livestock grazing at Lily	Same as A. Plus eliminate
Trails	Designate route for High Desert Trail through Steens and Pueblos, alternate route across Alvord Desert and connector trails.	Same as A.	Same as A.	Lake. Design new trails to avoid impacting RNAs ¹ and ACECs. Same as A. Design trail to minimize impacts on RNAs, ACECs and critical wildlife habitat.
Recreation Sites	Develop 5 recreation sites, totalling 77 acres. Leave buffer areas totalling 803 acres. Keep all sites open to grazing, especially buffer areas.	Develop 5 recreation sites, totalling 77 acres. Leave buffer areas totalling 803 acres.	Same as B.	Same as B. Developments must meet criteria set by VRM Class.
Winter Use Areas	Manage area on Steens above juniper belt as winter sports and snowmobile area. Access is restricted to the North and South Steens Loop Road.	Same as A.	No winter sports or snowmobile areas, due to conflicts with wildlife winter range.	Same as C.
Vehicle Management Area	Manage 220,000 acres on Steens as vehicle management area.	Same as A.	Same as A.	Same as A.
ORV Open Area	Open 1.4 million acres ORV use - all of Andrews area except Steens management area. Designate 26,000 acres in Alvord Desert for intensive vehicle use.	Open 1.3 million acres to ORV use. Limit use on Steens management area, ACECs, WSAs and riparian zones.	Open 1.2 million acres to ORV use. Limit use on Steens management area, ACECs, WSAs, riparian zones and RNAs.	Open .4 million acres to ORV use. Limit use on Steens management area, ACECs, WSAs, riparian zones, RNAs botanical sensitive areas, crucial wildlife habitat and HMAs. ² Use would be further restricted to include dry slopes of less than 20%.

¹ RNA - Research Natural Area. See glossary.² HMA - Horse Management Area. See glossary.

TABLE 6

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Alternatives

Class	A	B	C	D
I	There are no existing wilderness or natural areas.	There are no existing wilderness or natural areas.	There are no existing wilderness or natural areas.	There are no existing wilderness or natural areas.
II	None of the area is to be managed under VRM Class II.	Manage all Class II areas along state highways, county roads, and Steens road for visual resources.	Manage all Class II areas along state highways, county roads, and Steens road for visual resources.	Manage all Class II areas (509,000 acres) for visual resources by limiting soil and vegetation disturbances, power lines, buildings, minerals, and ORV use.
III	None of the area to be managed under VRM Class III.	Manage all Class III areas along state highways, county roads, and Steens road for visual resources.	Manage all Class III areas along state highways, county roads, and Steens road for visual resources.	Manage all Class III areas (184,000 acres) for visual resources. Limit soil and vegetation disturbances, and power lines.
IV	None of the area to be managed under VRM Class IV.	Manage all Class IV areas along state highways, county roads, and Steens road for visual resources.	Manage all Class IV areas along state highways, county roads, and Steens road for visual resources.	Manage all Class IV areas (899,000 acres) for visual resources by allowing some disturbance.
V	Manage disturbed sites in Class II areas which require rehabilitation (50 acres). Allow active material sites as needed.	Manage disturbed sites - as in Alternative A.	Manage disturbed sites in Class II areas which require rehabilitation (50 acres).	Manage disturbed sites - as in Alternative C.

MINERALS PROGRAM

The current national emphasis is toward encouragement of domestic energy and mineral exploration and development. In the minerals program, mineral resources are classified into three major categories - locatable, leasable and salable - according to the laws governing their means of disposal. All of the alternatives have a similar purpose in keeping public lands open for the exploration, development or collection of mineral resources, while maintaining natural systems and protecting sensitive areas.

Existing mineral withdrawals and segregations are currently being reviewed and revoked in cases where they are no longer necessary. In addition, public land realty actions, such as exchanges or land classifications, no longer include withdrawals or segregations of locatable or leasable minerals.

• Locatable Minerals

Locatable minerals include: gold, silver, lead and others that can only be staked and claimed under the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended. Currently there are 1,091 mining claims in the Andrews Resource Areas. Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) proposed in Alternatives B, C and D could result in restrictions or exclusions of exploration or mining operations. Two Research Natural Areas proposed in Alternative D would be considered for mineral withdrawal.

• Leasable Minerals

Leasable minerals include: oil, gas, geothermal resources, sodium and potassium. Each alternative provides for development of existing lease areas and opportunity for new leases, subject to BLM review and approval on a case-by-case basis. Most of the Andrews Resource Area would remain open to leasing. The majority of these lands are presently under applications for oil and gas leasing. Geothermal leases or leasing actions (applications for competitive sales) involve about 157,500 acres.

Two areas have been identified as being potentially unsuitable for leasing of oil, gas or geothermal resources due to conflicts of exploration/development operations with other resources. In addition, WSAs, ACECs and RNAs proposed in Alternatives B, C and D could result in mineral lease restrictions or exclusions to these areas. Potential areas of conflict include: visual resources, sensitive, threatened, or endangered plants and animals, recreation and unreclaimable land (steep slopes, thin soil, harsh climate).

In Alternative "D", both the Steens Mountain Unit (approximately 43,600 acres federal mineral estate) and the Pueblo Mountains Unit (approximately 38,200 acres federal mineral estate) would be considered for mineral lease restriction or exclusion. Refer to Map 5. In Alternative "C", only the Steens Mountain Unit would be considered for mineral lease restriction or exclusion.

Three basic leasing options would be available for these areas:

1. No leasing.
2. Lease with no surface occupancy stipulations.

- This is the most severe restriction on the lessee. It requires development of resources from a site outside of the area such as using directional drilling. No surface occupancy is only useful around the perimeter of the areas. The interior would not be leased.

3. Lease with limited surface occupancy stipulation.

- This stipulation places severe restriction on the lessee. It allows occupancy on only a fraction of the area of the lease (estimate less than 5%). These occupancy areas are preselected and specified in the lease. Limited surface occupancy allows for limited exploration to evaluate potential mineral resources.

• Salable Minerals

Salable minerals include common varieties of sand, gravel, stone, pumice, cinder and clay, which may be purchased from the BLM. The salable mineral program consists of numerous quarries where sources or rock are used for road surfacing material and various types of fill.

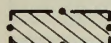
There is an active interest in numerous recreational minerals. These are minerals collected for ornamental purposes, e.g., obsidian, agate, petrified wood and invertebrate fossils. Off-road vehicle access to some areas of collection may be restricted due to seasonal closure and special management areas.

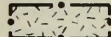
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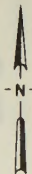
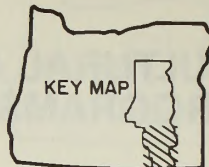
Burns District, Oregon

ANDREWS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

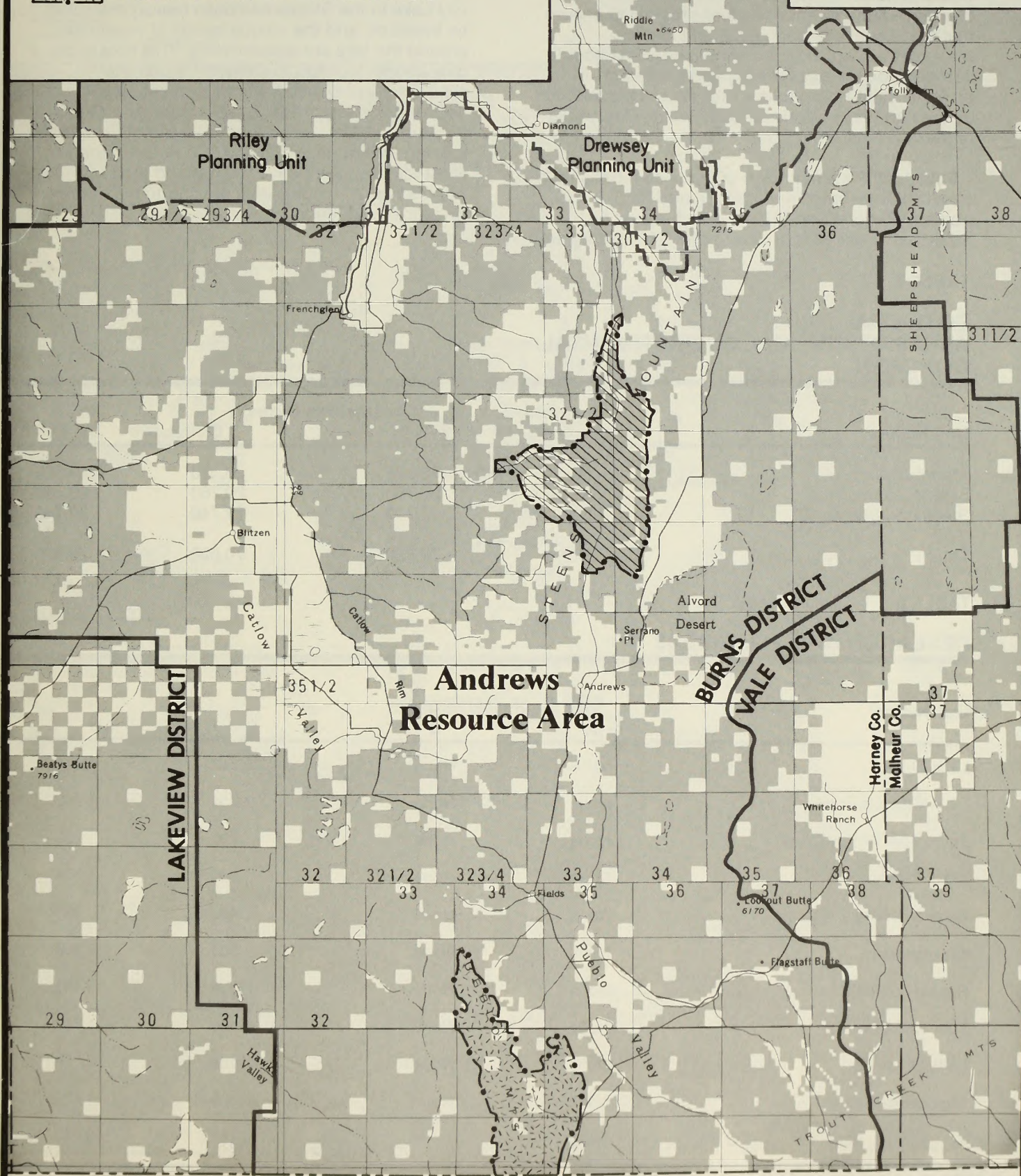
Mineral Lease Restriction or Exclusion Areas

 STEENS MOUNTAIN UNIT-ALTERNATIVES C & D

 PUEBLO MOUNTAIN UNIT-ALTERNATIVE D



0 5 10 MILES



CULTURAL AND BOTANICAL PROGRAMS

• **Cultural.** All of the land use alternatives would protect known cultural resources. In addition, BLM would continue to conduct inventories and clearance surveys in advance of projects to ensure that significant archaeological and historic resources are not affected. Where conflicts occur between known cultural sites and proposed projects, BLM would follow procedures prescribed by laws and regulations to avoid unnecessary loss of these values.

• **Botanical.** Present known or suspected habitats of sensitive, threatened and endangered (S, T & E) plants of Federal and State concern would be protected under all four alternatives. To identify any

potential impacts on S, T & E plants, BLM would continue to conduct surveys before any ground disturbing activity takes place. In addition, inventories would be conducted to further define population boundaries, essential habitat, and the distribution and abundance of plants of special concern.

Lily Lake in the Steens has been heavily trampled by livestock, and the unique bands of vegetation around the lake are deteriorating. This lake is the only known location in Oregon for one State sensitive plant species, whose population has declined to near critical levels. Under Alternative "D", Lily Lake would be fenced to eliminate cattle grazing. Alternatives "B" and "C" would manage livestock use to enhance the wetland area. Alternative "A" would allow grazing to maximize livestock production.

TABLE 7

POTENTIAL AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Unit Names	Alternatives (acres)			
	A	B	C	D
Alvord Desert	None	20,320	20,320	20,320
Steens Summit	None	20,760	20,760	20,760
Steens Scenic	None	29,740	29,740	29,740
Total	None	70,820	70,820	70,820

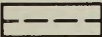

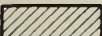
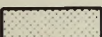
TABLE 8

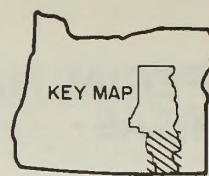
RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS

Unit Names	Unit Acres by Alternative		C	D
	A	B		
Little Blitzen	None	None	2,212	2,212
Little Wildhorse Lake	None	None	1,280	1,280
South Fork Willow Creek	None	None	200	200
Kiger Plateau	None	None	685	685
Rooster Comb	None	None	490	490
Mickey Basin	None	None	300	300
Pueblo Foothills	None	None	None	5,435
Tum Tum Lake	None	None	None	1,710
Long Draw	None	None	None	70
Big Springs Table	None	None	None	1,470
TOTAL	None	None	5,167	13,852

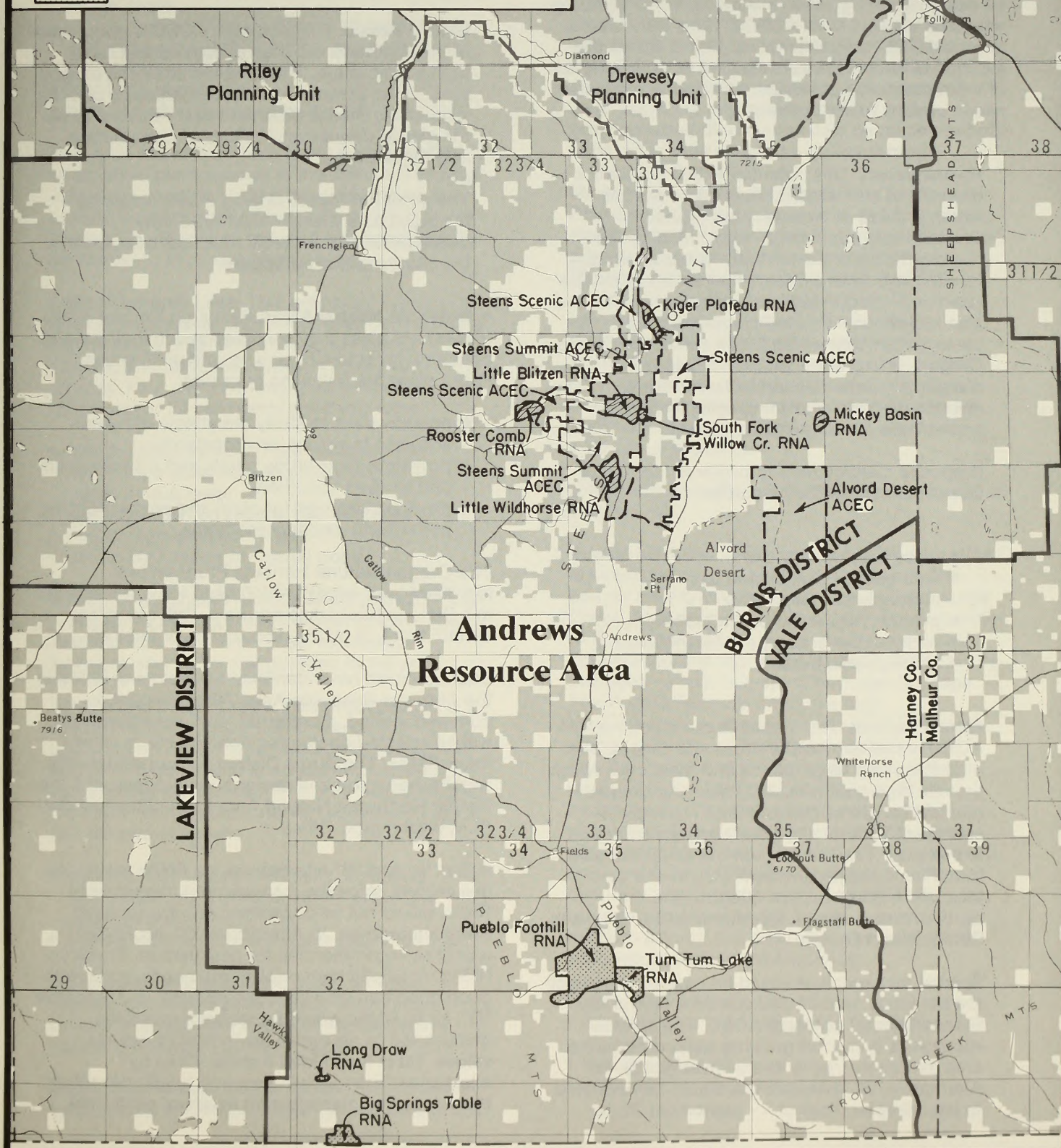
Burns District, Oregon

ANDREWS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN
Special Management Areas

-  AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC)
-  RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS (RNA)
-  ALTERNATIVES C & D
-  ALTERNATIVE D



0 5 10 MILES



SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

• **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.** Three potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) have been identified in the Andrews Resource Area. In Alternative "A", none of these areas would be designated as ACECs. In Alternatives "B", "C" and "D", all three areas would be designated. However, in Alternative "B", grazing would be allowed in all ACECs. Table 7 shows the potential ACECs by alternative. Map 6 shows the location of each potential ACEC. A brief description of the outstanding characteristics and management needs of each ACEC follows.

Alvord Desert. This potential ACEC contains a diversity of animals and plant communities, which provide an excellent opportunity for scientific and educational study. Most of the reptile species of the northern Great Basin are found in the Alvord Desert. The kit fox, a unique species in Oregon and many small mammals are also found here. This area includes plant communities that would fill six cell needs for the Oregon natural areas program. Refer to discussion under Research Natural Areas. There is a rich diversity of plant species, including populations of four sensitive plants.

Proposed management to preserve the Alvord Desert potential ACEC includes:

- close area to ORV use
- limit geothermal, oil and gas and other developments
- prohibit new water developments
- allow winter grazing at present levels
- stabilize wild horses

Steens Summit. The Steens Summit potential ACEC contains glacial cirques and valleys, and high mountain lakes, ponds and meadows, which provide high quality scenic value and unique habitats for plants and animals. Thirty plant species of Federal and State concern are found in this area. Two uncommon mammals are also found here: the pika, known only in one other location in Southeastern Oregon, and the northern water shrew, found only in the Steens in Southeastern Oregon.

Special management would be needed to protect the botanical, wildlife and scenic values of the Steens Summit potential ACEC. The shallow rocky soils and short growing season make the area extremely fragile to any disturbance. In Alternative "B", livestock use would be restricted to late summer, August 1 - September 30, to

protect botanical and wildlife values. In Alternative "C" & "D", livestock would be excluded from the area. Future developments, including new construction, earth moving operations, and energy and mineral related activities should be prohibited or limited. In addition, the area would be managed for Class II Visual Resources and any management activity changes must not be evident to the casual observer (refer to VRM discussion).

Steens Scenic. This potential ACEC is composed of areas around the Steens Summit that have high scenic value. This area includes: the craggy base of the Steens Mountain escarpment and the vista of the Steens Mountain east rim, as well as the glacial cirques and valleys of Little Blitzen and Kiger Gorge.

The potential Steens Scenic ACEC would be managed as a Class II VRM Area. Any developments or projects must not be evident in the characteristic landscape.

• **Research Natural Areas.** Research Natural Areas (RNAs) are areas that are preserved in their natural condition for scientific and educational values. RNAs serve the following purposes:

- provide areas to study the effects of human activities in similar environments.
- provide sites to study plants and animals in an undisturbed condition.
- provide preserves for plant and animal species, particularly endangered types.

The Oregon Natural Heritage Program has identified "cell needs" which need to be represented in a State natural areas program. Cell needs are certain types of plant communities or habitats.

Staff botanists have identified ten potential RNAs in the Andrews Resource Area. After the public comment period, a preferred land use alternative will be selected containing none, some or all of these RNAs. The Burns District will coordinate the further evaluation and designation process with the Pacific Northwest Natural Area Committee and the BLM Washington Office.

In the "A" and "B" alternatives, no RNAs would be designated, since the management objectives of RNAs would not be consistent with the goals of these alternatives. In Alternative "C", six RNAs would be recommended for designation. These six RNAs mostly fill high priority cell needs, and are in good condition with little disturbance. In Alternative "D", all 10 RNAs would be recommended for designation to maximize protection of natural values. Table 8 and Map 6 show RNAs by alternative. The following section briefly describes the values and management needs of each RNA.

The following six RNAs would be recommended in both Alternatives "C" and "D".

Little Blitzen. This proposed 2,212-acre RNA includes the upper two miles of Little Blitzen Gorge. This area contains the following plant communities or habitats, which fill cell needs for natural areas:

- mid to high elevation vernal pond
- stream system originating in subalpine
- aspen grove
- alpine communities on Steens Mountain including snow deflation and moderate snow cover communities
- late-lying snowbeds
- high elevation fescue grassland

This area has one of the highest concentrations of sensitive plant species in the district. The area is in good condition since there have been no grazing permits on the Steens Summit allotment since 1973. However, the west boundary should be fenced to eliminate trespass use.

Little Wildhorse Lake. This proposed 1,280-acre RNA encompasses Little Wildhorse Canyon. This glacial valley originates from a number of cirques, and contains several unique plant species. Four plant communities or habitats which would fill cell needs are found here:

- alpine communities on Steens including downslope snow accumulation areas and upper cirque areas
- big sagebrush on Steens/Hart Mountain
- mid to high elevation lake
- mid to high elevation vernal pond

Management should include maintenance of the fence at the bottom of the canyon to eliminate livestock use. Recreation use, especially camping, should be discouraged in the area.

South Fork Willow Creek. This proposed RNA contains a 200 acre portion of the cirque from which South Fork Willow Creek originates. This cirque is in good natural condition protected by steep slopes on all sides. The area would fill one high and one medium priority cell need for the natural area program:

- alpine communities on Steens, including downslope snow accumulation areas and upper cirque communities
- stream system originating in a glacial cirque.

Many sensitive plants grow in the different habitats provided by the cirque. There are no present management needs, since the area is naturally protected by its topography.

East Kiger Plateau. This proposed 685-acre RNA includes the entire East Kiger Plateau around the

Notch. This proposed RNA would fill a medium priority cell need for a high elevation fescue grassland. The plateau is naturally protected by steep slopes on all sides, and has had little, if any, livestock use. Present management is compatible with the needs of RNAs.

Rooster Comb. The proposed 490-acre Rooster Comb RNA would include the lower 1 1/2 miles of Little Blitzen Gorge above the Riddle Ranch. This proposed RNA contains two plant communities which would fill cell needs: a medium priority mountain mahogany community and a high priority black cottonwood riparian area. The area is in good condition, showing little evidence of cattle use, limited populations of weedy species, and good stands of native bunchgrasses. The area should be fenced at both ends, and cattle should be trailed through.

Mickey Basin Winterfat Stand. This proposed RNA is a 300 acre area one mile south of Mickey Hot Springs. The winterfat stand would fill a high priority cell need. All other winterfat sites on the District are too small or have been heavily invaded by cheatgrass, peppergrass and halogeton. The majority of Mickey Basin Winterfat Stand is in good condition, but halogeton appears to be invading on the west side. Therefore, management should include fencing to eliminate livestock and wild horses. Mineral leases should include a no-surface occupancy stipulation.

The following four RNAs would be recommended in Alternative "D".

Pueblo Foothills. This proposed 5,435-acre RNA is located in the Pueblo foothills west of the county road between Willow Creek and Arizona Creek. This proposed RNA contains communities to fill: a medium priority cell need- narrowleaf cottonwood and Mormon tea, and a high priority cell need - shadscale-spiny hopsage-budsage. The Pueblo Foothills contain a high concentration of sensitive and special interest plants. Numerous Great Basin species extend into the Pueblos at the northern edge of their range. The Pueblo Foothills RNA would be recommended for designation only in the "D" alternative. The stream and surrounding areas are in poor condition. The high priority cell need could probably be filled elsewhere on a less disturbed site, and the unique narrowleaf cottonwood-Mormon tea community is only a medium priority cell need. Management of the RNA would include the following:

- eliminate livestock grazing by fencing
- restrict or exclude occupancy for leaseable minerals
- monitor recreation use
- consider a mineral withdrawal

Tum Tum Lake. This proposed 1,710-acre RNA, which includes most of Tum Tum Lake plus a small area to the north, would fill a medium priority cell need for a low elevation vernal pond. The area also contains several interesting salt desert shrub and desert scrub communities.

Tum Tum Lake RNA would be recommended for designation only in the "D" alternative, since it fills a medium priority cell need. Cattle usage of the area is minimal since forage value is low, but it may be desirable to fence the area. Mineral leases should include a no-surface occupancy stipulation, and a mineral withdrawal should be considered.

Long Draw. This proposed RNA is a 70 acre area three miles southeast of Hawk Valley. The Long Draw RNA would fill a high priority cell need for an Indian ricegrass, needlegrass community. There is a question as to whether this plant association represents a stable community. The proposed Long Draw RNA has an abundance of the perennial grasses, little rabbitbrush, and no evidence of a rapid increase in sagebrush, and therefore appears stable. The area needs some rehabilitation work for erosion and gully control. For the above reasons, Long Draw RNA would be recommended for designation only in Alternative "D". The area should be fenced to maintain or improve its condition. Presently there is no heavy cattle use due to an inadequate water supply, but there is a proposed pipeline in the area that would increase cattle use.

Big Springs Table. This proposed RNA includes the northern portion of Big Springs Table, southeast of Hawk Mountain. It would fill the cell need for a black sagebrush community. This 1,470-acre area is in good natural condition since there is a minimum of livestock use. The Big Springs Table RNA would be recommended for designation in Alternative "D" only. This site is on the edge of the range of black sagebrush and a more representative stand may be found in another district. There is some horse use in the area which should be monitored to determine if fencing is needed.

WILD HORSE PROGRAM

There are two Herd Management Areas (HMAs) in the Andrews Resource Area: South Steens and Alvord-Sheepshead. South Steens HMA contains portions of Andrews, South Steens, and Frazier Field Allotments. Portions of the Pollock, Alvord, Trout Creek, and Tule Springs Allotments form the Alvord-Sheepshead HMA.

Alternative "A" would maintain a minimum number of horses, 20-30 horses per HMA, allowing maximum livestock production. All of the alternatives would allocate AUMs to wild horses, reducing livestock AUMs. Alternatives "B" and "C" would maintain horse numbers consistent with existing herd management plans, requiring 5,700 AUMs allocated to horses. Under Alternative "D", which maximizes protection of natural values, all domestic livestock would be removed and all forage allocated to wild horses in the HMAs. Table 3 displays these variations between alternatives.

All of the alternatives restrict domestic horse grazing in HMAs. "D" also restricts domestic horse grazing in contiguous allotments.

Fencing restricts movement of wild horses and therefore conflicts with optimizing wild horse habitat. Proposed brush control and seeding projects require fencing for protection, and therefore also conflict with wild horses. Alternatives "A" and "B" would allow fencing and range improvements. Alternative "C" would allow those fences which are necessary to implement an Allotment Management Plan (AMP). Alternative "D" would require removal of the 52 miles of existing fence, and would prohibit construction of proposed fences on public land in the HMAs. All proposed brush control and seeding projects in HMAs would also be eliminated. Table 3 lists proposed miles of fence and acres of range improvements by alternative.

Development of water is necessary to maximize herd potential. Surplus water would be allocated to wild horse use in Alternatives "A" and "B", where livestock and wildlife needs are the primary concern. Water would be developed to maximize herd potential in Alternative "C" and "D" when not in conflict with other resources.

Alternatives "B", "C" and "D" would allow for the construction of a wild horse viewpoint at Baldheaded Camp on the South Steens Loop Road. The viewpoint would be valuable to recreation users during the summer months.

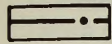
Alternatives "C" and "D" would allow management practices to improve herds in HMAs. Such management practices would upgrade herds through transfer of superior wild studs or through release of domestic stallions if the need arises. Transfer of animals between herds would also be permitted to prevent line breeding or inbreeding. Selection for sex, color, breed conformation and physical condition would also be used as a management tool for improving wild horse herds.

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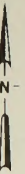
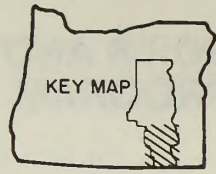
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ANDREWS MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN

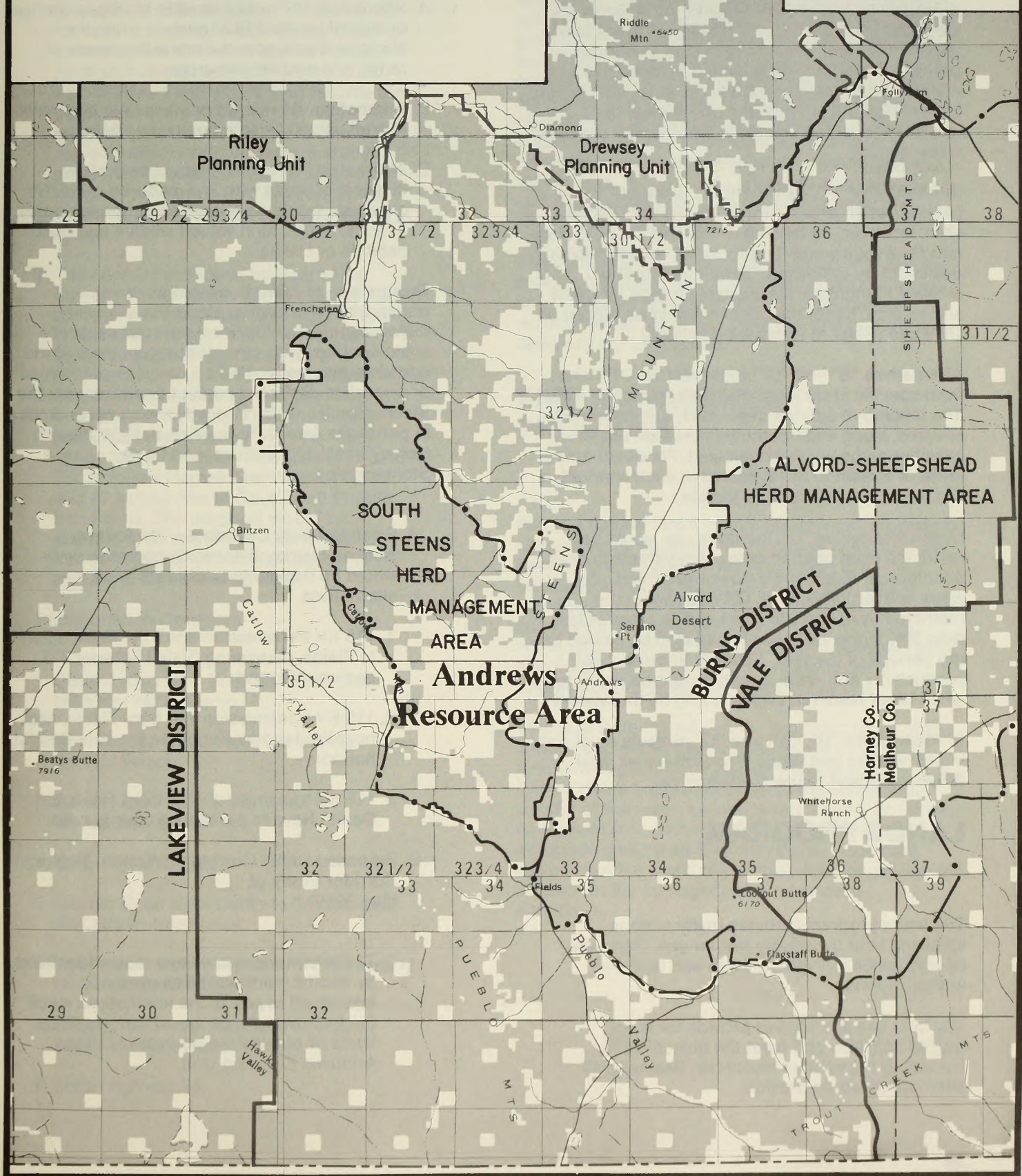
Wild Horse Herd Management Areas



HERD MANAGEMENT BOUNDARY



0 5 10 MILES



SOILS AND WATERSHED PROGRAM

Management practices in all four alternatives would be designed to protect water quality, soil productivity, and control erosion. All alternatives would stabilize gullies and fragile soil areas which impact the water quality of streams. Proposed projects, including roads, would be designed and maintained to reduce impacts on water quality and soil erosion. All alternatives would meet the minimum legal requirements dealing with soils and water quality.

In Alternative "A", Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) would provide for protection of specific sites; however, no fencing of riparian areas, springs, and reservoirs would be proposed so that livestock use could be optimized. Seedings would be allowed to increase the available forage for cattle and wildlife. Minor restrictions would be placed on ORV use (Refer to Recreation section).

Alternatives "B" and "C" would restrict ORV use from specific areas, reducing disturbance to soils. The fencing of springs, reservoirs, and perennial streams; along with restricted livestock use in sensitive areas would be allowed. For detail on the miles of stream to be protected in each alternative, see the preceding Wildlife section.

Under Alternative "D", livestock use would be restricted from riparian areas, watersheds in poor condition or exhibiting a downward trend, and areas with erodible soils. ORV use would be restricted from specific areas and to areas of less than 20% slope. ORV use would also be limited to dry periods of the year. Seeding to protect soil productivity and water quality would be restricted when other resource values would be threatened.

In Alternatives "B", "C", and "D" projects must not impair wildlife and visual resource values, and WSAs proposed for each alternative.

LANDS PROGRAM

The lands program includes realty actions involving land ownership exchanges, disposals, opportunities for rights-of-way and land use authorizations.

The land use alternatives provide for lands related activities and meet the objectives for managing the various resources. Basically, all alternatives would provide:

- I. Land exchanges with State and local governments, and private individuals, when these land exchanges are deemed to be in the public interest. No land disposals will be allowed in WSAs until wilderness designations are decided by Congress. Disposals will not be allowed in designated wilderness areas.
- A. Alternative "A" would provide for the exchange or sale of isolated BLM parcels when the disposal would accommodate the needs of range and wildlife resources.
- B. Alternative "B" would not allow land disposals in high valued wildlife habitat or HMAs.
- C. Alternative "C" and "D" would only allow disposal of lands with low resource value. No disposals would be permitted in riparian areas, ACECs, RNAs, high valued wildlife and plant habitats or HMAs.

Designation of 2,000 ft. wide utility and transportation corridors along the following major identified utility lines and roadways: (To avoid conflicts with other resources, most of the corridors may be located on one side of the road or powerline. Potential conflict areas include: the Steens Scenic ACEC and wilderness study areas, in particular Alvord Peak, Rincon, High Steens, Home Creek, Stonehouse, and Lower Stonehouse.)

- A. Existing Utility Corridors - The following existing Harney Electric Cooperative lines would be designated corridors in all alternatives.
 1. 115 KV transmission line from Frenchglen to Fields, paralleling State Highway 205 and county road.
 2. 115 KV transmission line from Fields, east near Whitehorse Ranch, to the Vale District boundary.
 3. 115 KV transmission line from Fields to Denio, Nevada paralleling county road.
- B. Proposed Utility Corridors (Western Regional Corridor Study of May, 1980)
 1. The telephone microwave routes identified by Pacific Northwest Bell were not addressed in any of the alternatives since the microwave sites are either on private lands or outside the boundaries of the Andrews Planning Unit.

2. The corridor proposed by Pacific Power & Light Company would enter the Andrews Resource Area east of the northern tip of the Alvord Desert, cross the Steens near the mouth of Wildhorse Canyon, thence on across Catlow Valley leaving the Andrews Area south of Beatty's Butte. This proposal is accepted in Alternative "A". The route would have to be modified in Alternatives "B" and "C" to follow the Harney Electric Cooperative's routes #1 and #2 (listed in Section A above) across the Steens and Alvord Desert and would then resume the proposed route. The proposal would be rejected in its entirety in Alternative "D" due to conflicts with wilderness study areas, highly scenic areas, critical wildlife habitat, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and wildhorse management areas.

3. The corridor proposed by Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) would enter the Andrews Resource Area west of the Whitehorse Ranch, cross the Pueblo Mountains about four miles north of Domingo Pass, and proceed on west across Basque Hills, leaving the Andrews Area at Shallow Lake. This proposal is accepted in Alternative "A". The route would be modified in Alternatives "B" and "C" to follow Harney Electric's routes #1 and #2 across Alvord Desert and Pueblo Mountains. The proposal would be rejected in its entirety in Alternative "D" due to conflicts with wilderness study areas and highly scenic areas.

C. Transportation Corridors

1. County road from Folly Farm (on State Highway 78) to Denio.
2. County road from Fields to Roaring Springs Ranch.
3. County road from Trout Creek to Whitehorse Ranch.
4. State Highway 205.
5. County Road from Denio to Trout Creek via Cottonwood Creek.
6. County and BLM road from "P" Hill area to Hart Mountain Refuge.
7. County road from Reichens Corner to Jack Mountain Road.
8. State Highway 78.

FORESTS

No lands in the Andrews Resource Area are classified as forest. The major tree species are western juniper and aspen.

Western juniper, the dominant tree species, covers 118,200 acres, but has little potential for commercial production. Juniper is used locally for fence posts and firewood. Rising energy costs have resulted in greater demands from public lands for less costly energy sources. All four of the alternatives would allow cutting of firewood and fence posts, but the cutting would have to be done according to regulations which would enhance wildlife habitat. Alternatives "B", "C" and "D" would also restrict cutting in wilderness study areas proposed for wilderness designation.

Aspen covers 10,240 acres, and occurs in protected basins and valleys within the Steens Mountain area or in scattered isolated stands. No commercial demand exists for aspen products, and no future demands are anticipated.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Fire is a natural factor in the development of eastern Oregon range ecosystems. Attempts to exclude fire have frequently altered the vegetation to a less favorable livestock range condition. With proper management, burns are capable of releasing a more palatable and available forage. Fires often have some negative impacts, particularly if adverse runoff conditions also occur. There are a number of wildlife species adversely impacted by fire.

The BLM is concerned about two basic types of fire: wildfire and prescribed fire. All four land use alternatives place emphasis on wildfire control. The degree of fire suppression would depend on the priority of the resource values threatened, finances, equipment, and personnel. All four alternatives introduce prescribed fires into the management system, but the method and frequency of use would depend on the management goal of each alternative.

CHANGES MADE ON DRAFT LAND USE ALTERNATIVE BROCHURE (July 1981)

Item I-A. Purpose of Document

BLM originally planned to do one Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), known as the Harney EIS, to cover both the Riley Planning Unit and the Andrews Resource Area. Separate grazing EISs will now be done for each area and be titled the Riley and Andrews grazing management EISs, respectively. (The Riley proposed alternatives and EIS scoping public review and comment period was December 31, 1981 to February 5, 1982.)

Item II-B Major Issues

The public comments from the draft brochure brought up one additional important issue. The management of Big Game Winter Ranges is covered in this summary brochure.

Wilderness. There are some minor changes in estimated acreages for wilderness study areas due to new information and boundary changes. In addition, the names of five study areas were changed to more correctly identify the land area being studied. In all cases the study area number remains the same.

WSA #	New Name	Name Given in Draft Brochure
2-23M	Lower Stonehouse	Stonehouse
2-85F	High Steens	South Steens
2-85G	South Fork of the Donner und Blitzen River	South Steens
2-85H	Home Creek	South Steens
2-86F	Little Blitzen Gorge	Blitzen River

Item II-C. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)

Nine ACEC nominations in the Andrews Resource Area were listed in the draft brochure as shown below:

Alvord Desert Preserve	20,320 acres
Steens Mountain	19,980 acres
East Alvord Desert	19,360 acres ¹
Coyote Lake Dunes	1,400 acres
Black Point	8,200 acres
Pueblo Mountains	8,240 acres
Flagstaff Butte	980 acres
Oregon End Table	1,280 acres
Denio Basin Ridge	1,280 acres

These nominations were reviewed by an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists. Two of the areas, the Alvord Desert and Steens Mountain, met the established criteria for ACECs set by BLM policy guidelines. The potential Alvord Desert ACEC is the same as the Alvord Desert Preserve listed above. The potential Steens Summit ACEC includes the above nominated Steens Mountain ACEC plus the nominations Steens wildlife ACEC, totaling 20,760 acres.

Seventeen ACECs were nominated for visual resource qualities. Six of these nominations and parts of three others were determined to meet established criteria for ACECs. Some of the accepted areas are included in the Steens Summit potential ACEC. The other areas border on the Steens Summit, and were combined to form the Steens Scenic potential ACEC.

Item III. Guidelines for Individual Alternatives

Public comment led to the development of four alternatives rather than the three draft alternatives. There are now two mid-range alternatives: one that emphasizes economic uses and one that emphasizes natural values.

The goal and objectives under each alternative have been modified to reflect the priority of major issues in response to public comment and staff review.

¹The East Alvord Desert is included in the Alvord Desert Preserve.

FACTORS OR CRITERIA TO BE USED IN THE SELECTION OF A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Decision criteria are measures for evaluating alternatives and selecting, or developing, a composite preferred land use allocation alternative. The preferred alternative would be the alternative which best meets national guidance and best satisfies the following decision criteria:

Grazing

Meets the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), Public Rangelands Improvement Act, Taylor Grazing Act and the long-term objective of stabilizing the livestock industry and producing a sustained level of livestock forage to meet regional and national needs.

Wilderness

Preserves those areas that are determined to be suitable for wilderness designation to meet the requirements of FLPMA.

Wildlife and Fish

Protects, improves or develops fish spawning, rearing and migration habitat.

Protects important wildlife habitat offering food and shelter during all seasons of the year.

Minerals and Lands

Allows exploration and development of mineral and energy resources while protecting other significant resource values.

Allows adequate land allocations for communication sites, access development and designation of right-of-way corridors while protecting other significant resource values.

Provides land exchanges and sales which best serve public interests.

Recreation and Visual Resources

Meets the demands for developed and dispersed recreation opportunities identified in the Planning Area Analysis.

Provides for maintaining the visual quality of the landscape in areas of high sensitivity.

Cultural and Botanical Resources

Protects or enhances habitat of threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species.

Provides for scientific and educational study through such programs as Research Natural Areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

Protects cultural resources in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Wild Horses

Protects wild horses in accordance with the Wild Horse and Burro Act.

Soils

Maximize onsite soil water. This point occurs when we minimize erosion and runoff, thus maximizing vegetative production and minimizing the erosive force of flowing water.

Water

Contribute to the improvement or maintenance of water of sufficient quality and quantity for the beneficial uses in that stream. Although we don't have a high potential for increasing water yield, our management action can affect timing of the yield, particularly with regard to improving low flow with improved riparian conditions.

Socio-Economic Conditions

Maintains or expands the total level of local employment and personal earnings which are dependent on raw materials, recreation and other use opportunities available on lands administered by the District.

Maintains or expands the contributions of the District's programs to the local public revenues.

Consistency With State, Local and Other Federal Natural Resource Plans, Programs and Policies

Demonstrates consistency with State planning goals (Land Conservation and Development Commission), local comprehensive plans, and officially approved local resource related plans, programs and policies.

Demonstrates consistency with other federal agencies' officially approved resource related plans, programs and policies (provides coordinated approaches to regional issues and projects or proposals crossing administrative lines).

(Note: The comment sheet enclosed in this brochure has been formulated to provide opportunity for written comments on these factors to be used in the selection of a preferred alternative.)

GLOSSARY

Allotment Management Plans (AMP) - An intensive livestock grazing management plan dealing with a specific unit of rangeland, based on multiple-use resource management objectives. The AMP considers livestock grazing in relation to the renewable resources -- watershed, vegetation and wildlife. An AMP establishes the season of use, the number of livestock to be permitted on the range, and the range improvements needed.

Alpine - High altitude mountain environment above the tree line; includes ridgetops exposed to strong winds and extreme cold.

Animal Unit Month (AUM) - The amount of forage consumed by one mature cow, and a calf under six months, for one month. The amount of forage consumed by one horse, five sheep, five deer, six bighorn, and seven antelope for one month is considered equal to one cow AUM.

Archaeological Resources - All evidence (including sites, artifacts and environmental data) which can be used to reconstruct the activities and customs of past peoples.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) - An area designated for special management to protect unique resource values; including wildlife, botanical and scenic values.

Big-Game Animals - Limited to mule deer, antelope and bighorn sheep in Andrews Resource Area.

Cell Need - A plant community or habitat that needs to be represented in the State natural areas program.

Characteristic Landscape - The land pattern which is distinctive or typical of an area.

Cirques - Steep walled mountain basins shaped like half a bowl.

Commodity Resources - Goods or products of economic use or value.

Cultural Resources - Include archaeological and historic resources.

Diversity - A measure of the variety of species and habitats in an area that take into account the relative abundance of each species or habitat.

Endangered Species - Plant or animal which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range.

Environmental Education Areas - Areas suitable for the study of plants and animals in their natural environments.

Environmental Impact - The positive or negative effect of any action upon a given area or resource.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - A formal document that considers significant environmental impacts expected from implementation of federal actions.

Forage - Vegetation used for food by wildlife, domestic livestock, and wild horses.

Habitat - Type of environment in which certain plants or animals are found.

Herd Management Area (HMA) - A geographically limited area in which wild horse populations exist and numbers can be controlled.

Historic Resource - All evidences of human activity that date from historic (i.e., recorded history) periods. These resources include documentary data, sites, artifacts, environmental data, and locations where documented historical events took place.

Implement - To execute or accomplish goals or plans.

Land-use Planning - The process of categorizing land units for various kinds and intensities of use and management. Plans are based on public demand, land use capability, cost/benefit analyses, public welfare, sociological considerations, and specifications or constraints of applicable law and Bureau policy.

Management Facilities - Projects established and used to achieve desired goals and objectives on public lands.

Management Framework Plan (MFP) - Land use plan for public lands which provides a set of goals, objectives, and constraints for a specific planning area to guide the development of detailed plans for the management of each resource. There are three stages of the MFP-process:

MFP, Step 1: **Resource Program Objectives and Recommendations.** Each activity specialist proposes objectives and recommendation actions which would support that activity or resource. In the Burns District, these recommendations are in the form of **Land Use Allocations.**

MFP, Step 2: **Multiple Use Alternatives.** Single resource recommendations of MFP-1 are analyzed and land use alternatives constructed. A preferred alternative is selected or developed by the District Manager.

MFP, Step 3: **Decision.** Following public comment and an environmental impact statement on grazing management activities, the final MFP decision is made and publicized.

Multiple Use - Management of the public lands and their various resource values to best meet the present and future needs of the American people.

Planning Area Analysis (PAA) - A documentation of the existence and significance of economic, social, infrastructure, institutional, and environmental values, and the establishment of economic demand projections, within a planning area.

Planning Unit - A geographic area within a BLM District used for assembling resource inventory data.

Plant Community - A group of plants that occur together.

Prescribed Fire - A planned burning of land under favorable conditions which would improve the vegetative resources.

Public Lands - Any land and interest in land owned by the United States Government and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management. May include public domain or acquired lands in any combination.

Raptors - Bird species which have adapted to seize prey, i.e., eagles, hawks, etc.

Research Natural Area (RNA) - An area preserved in its natural condition for scientific and educational purposes.

Resource Area - Geographic area that contains one or more planning units.

Riparian Habitat - Terrestrial sites influenced by perennial and intermittent waters which in combination with the water table level, soils and vegetation create a microclimate apart from that which exists on the upland terrestrial sites. These areas are found adjacent to rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, marshes, seeps, spring bogs and wet meadows.

Sensitive Species - Plant or animal species that is proposed or being reviewed for official listing as threatened and endangered.

Snow Deflation Community - A plant community found on the crest of a mountain where exposure to high winds leaves a thin cover of snow.

Subalpine - Transition between tree zone and alpine ridgetop.

Threatened Species - A plant or animal which is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Topography - The relief features or surface configuration of a geographic area.

Unit Resource Analysis (URA) - A BLM planning document which contains a comprehensive inventory and analysis of the resources within a specified geographic area (planning unit) and an analysis of their potential for development.

Vernal Pond - A pond which dries up seasonally.

Visitor Day - Twelve hours of recreational use by one or more persons.

Visual Resource Management (VRM) - Scenic quality evaluation and management classification system. Each VRM class prescribes certain limits on the amount of disturbance allowed in an area. Part of the recreation program.

Water Quality - The nature or grade of water.

Watershed - An area which ultimately drains into a particular waterbody or watercourse.

Wetlands - Aquatic areas such as marshes, swamps and wet areas which are crucial wildlife habitats.

Wilderness Study Area (WSA) - An area inventoried and determined to be wilderness in character, having few human developments and providing opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

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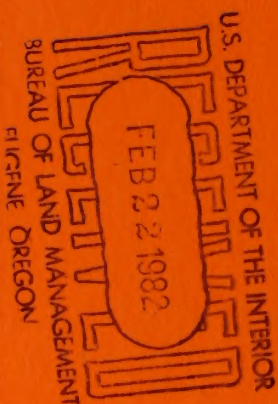
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